

Mahatma Gandhi is ranked amongst the ten most influential persons of the twentieth century. Apart from the revolutionary ideas of satyagraha and non-violence Gandhiji expressed his very definitive ideas on a wide range of themes – from politics and religion to sex-education and parenting. Many of his ideas which were then rejected and ridiculed are today being enthusiastically adopted and practised.

Dip into this “**Inspiring Thoughts**” and discover for yourself the multi-dimensional genius of the man who became Mahatma.




*Inspiring Thoughts*

Mahatma Gandhi



MAHATMA GANDHI

# *Inspiring Thoughts*




# Inspiring Thoughts


MAHATMA GANDHI

Concept & Compilation by Meera Johri






India is essentially  
*karmabhumi* (land of duty)  
in contradistinction to  
*bhogabhumi* (land of enjoyment)



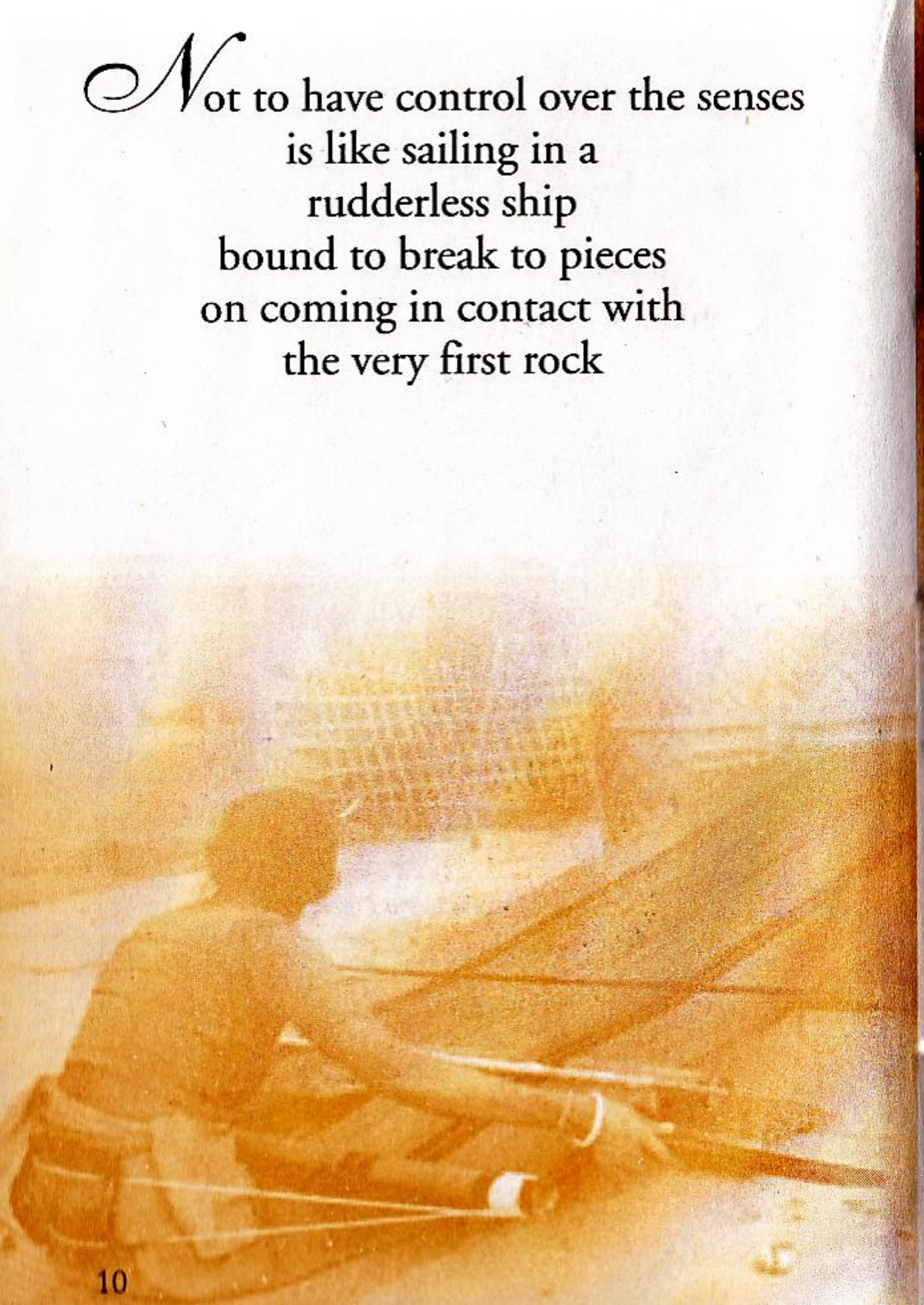
*T*he word Swaraj is a sacred word  
a Vedic word  
meaning self-rule and self-restraint  
and not  
freedom from all restraints  
which 'independence' often means



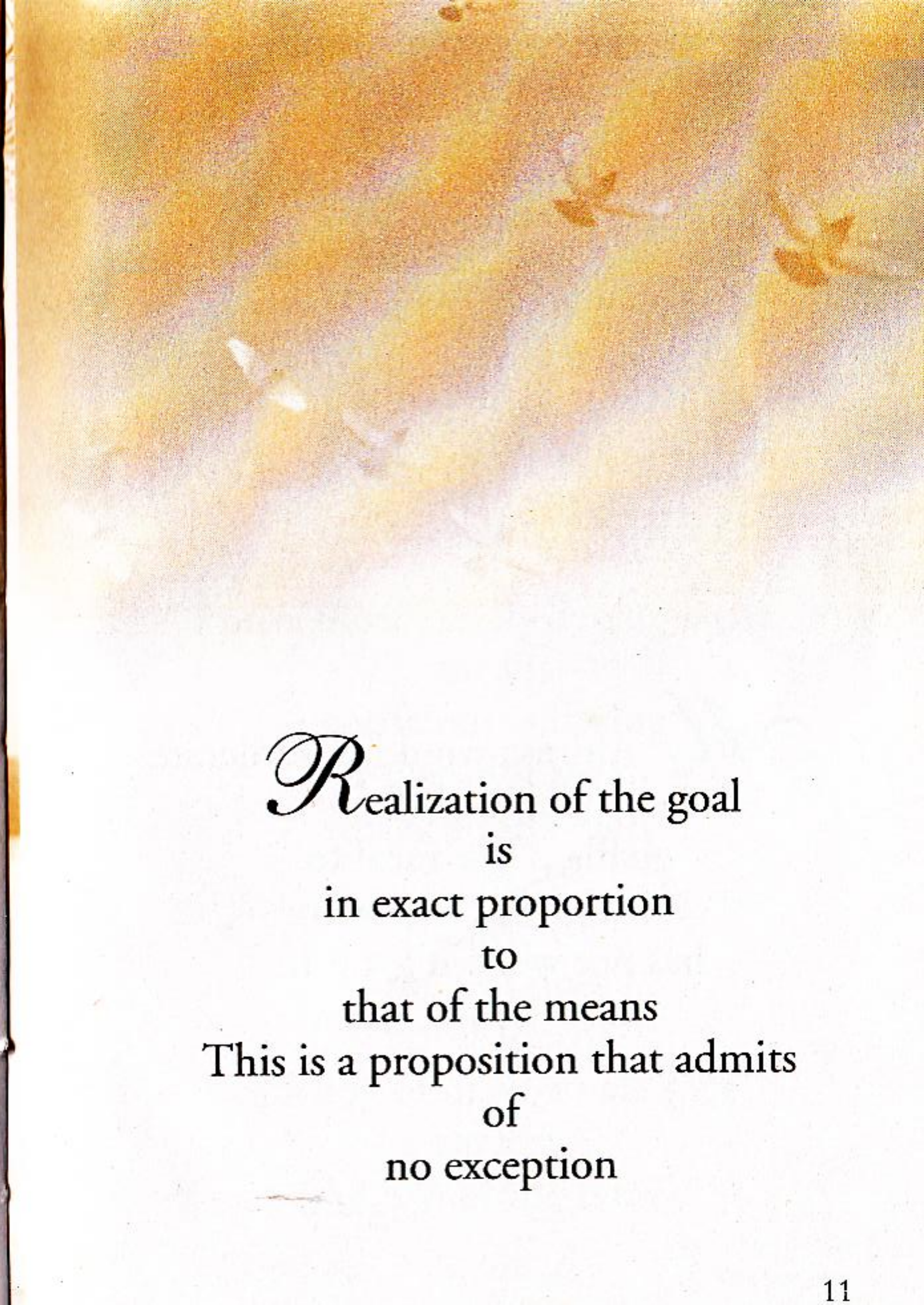
*F*or me  
patriotism is the same as humanity  
I am patriotic  
because  
I am human and humane  
It is not exclusive

*T*he highest form of freedom  
carries with it  
the greatest measure  
of  
discipline  
and  
humility


*I*f the individual  
ceases to count  
what  
is left of society



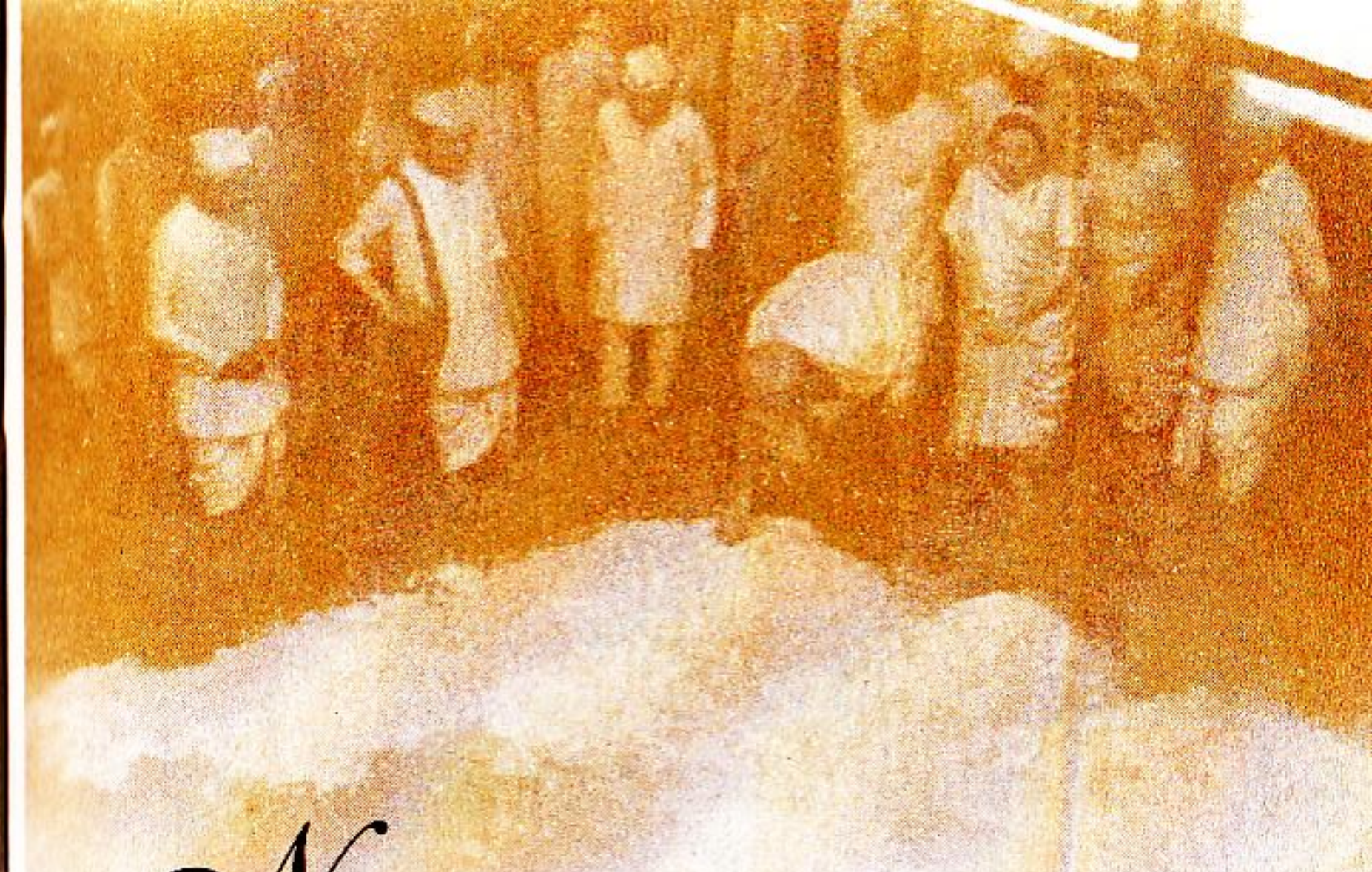

Not to have control over the senses  
is like sailing in a  
rudderless ship  
bound to break to pieces  
on coming in contact with  
the very first rock




Realization of the goal  
is  
in exact proportion  
to  
that of the means  
This is a proposition that admits  
of  
no exception



*My* Ahimsa would not tolerate  
the idea of  
giving a free meal to  
a healthy person who  
has not worked for it in  
some honest way



*N*on-violence in its dynamic condition  
means  
conscious suffering  
It does not mean  
meek submission  
to  
the will of  
the evil doer  
but it means  
pitting of one's whole soul  
against  
the will of the tyrant



*T*he kisan or the peasant  
whether as a landless labourer

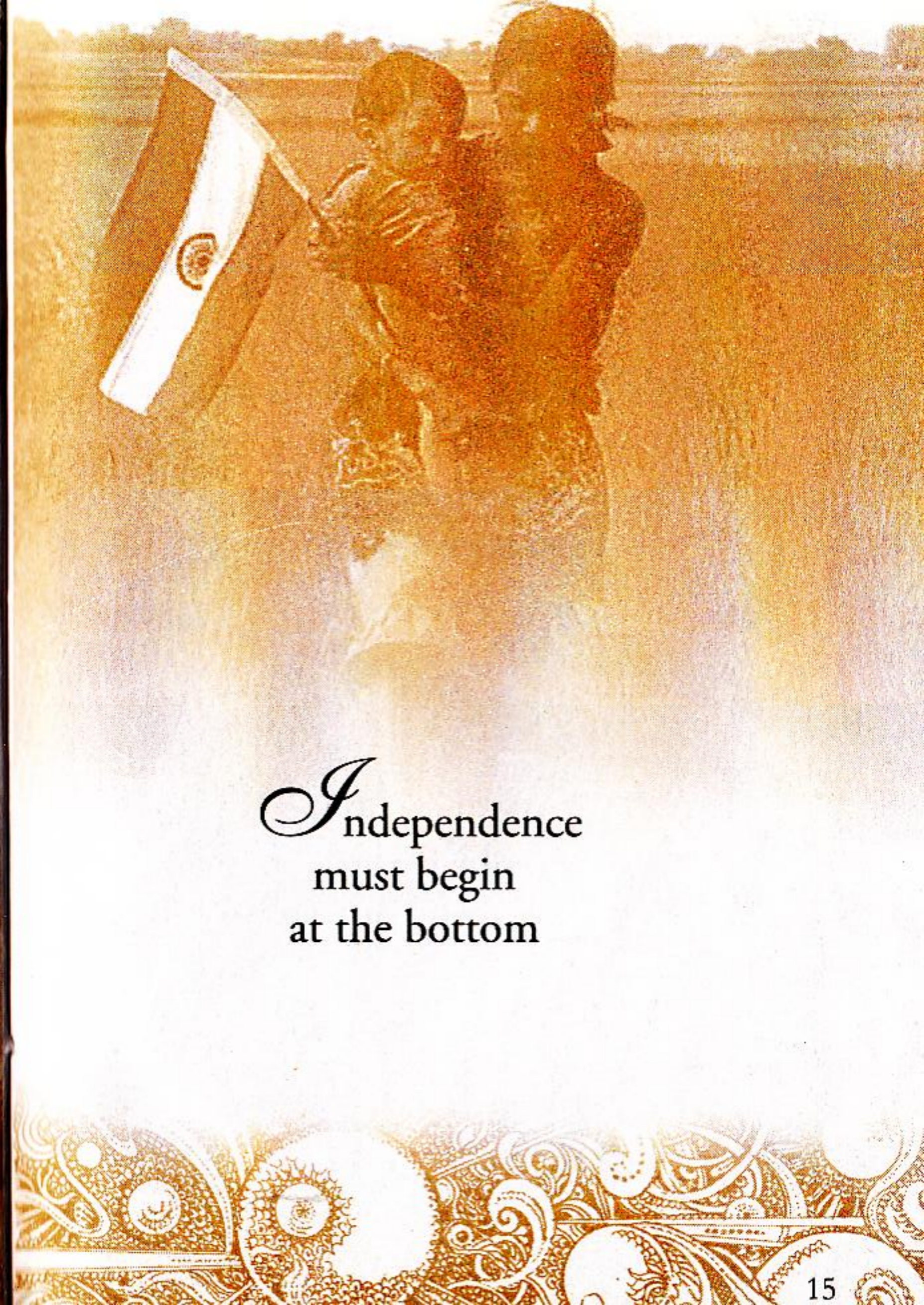
or

a labouring proprietor  
comes first

He is the salt of the earth  
which rightly belongs

or

should belong to him  
not to the absentee landlord or  
zamindar



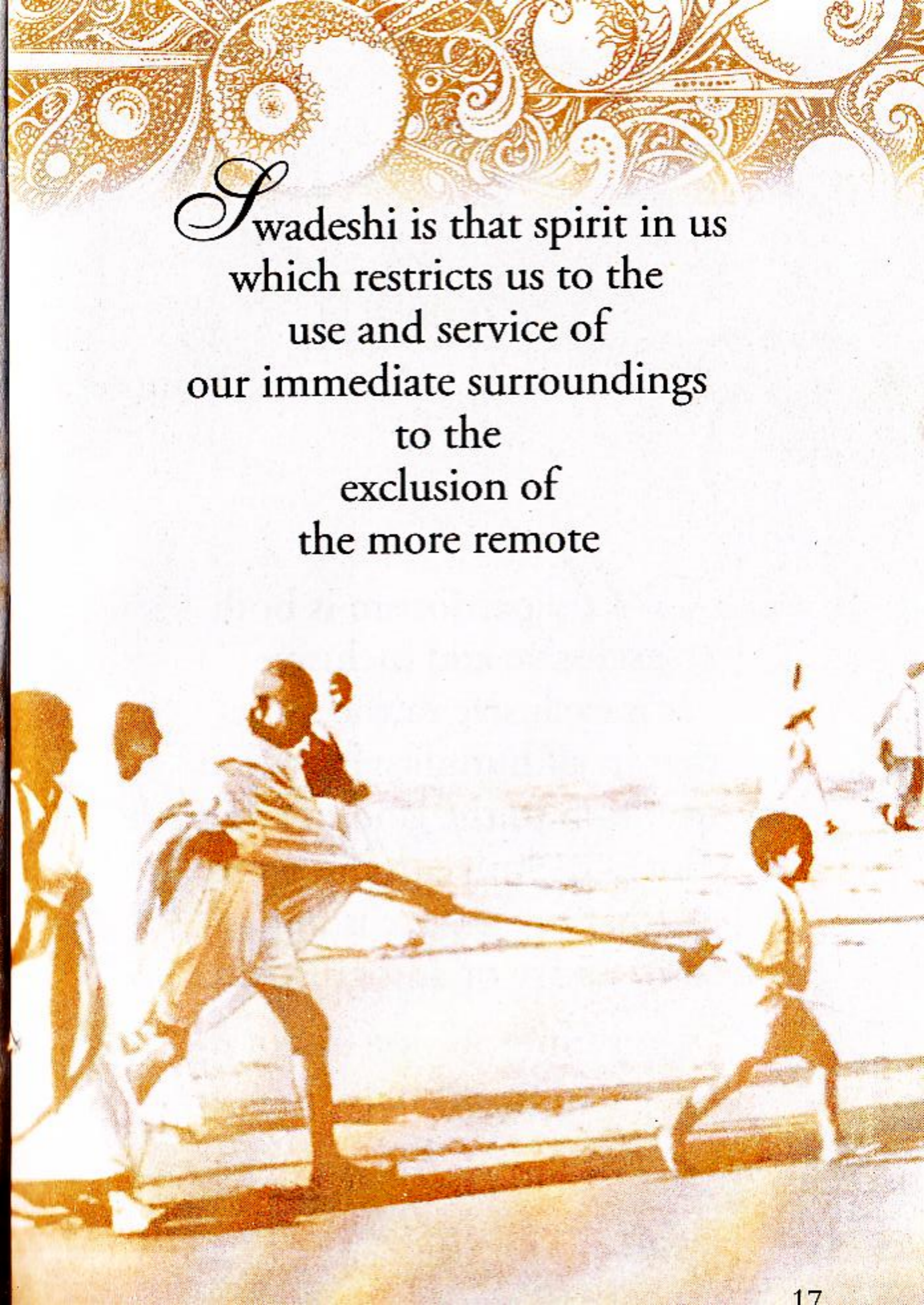
*I*ndependence  
must begin  
at the bottom



*K*hadi to me  
is the symbol of  
unity of Indian humanity  
of its  
economic freedom  
and  
equality




*S*wadeshi is that spirit in us  
which restricts us to the  
use and service of  
our immediate surroundings  
to the  
exclusion of  
the more remote



# मेरा



*My* patriotism is both  
exclusive and inclusive  
It is exclusive in the sense  
that in all humility I confine  
my attention to the land of my birth  
But is inclusive in the sense  
that my service is not  
of a competitive or antagonistic nature




*T*ruth quenches untruth  
love quenches anger  
Self-suffering quenches violence  
This eternal rule  
is a rule not for saints only  
but for all





*D*isease springs from a  
wilful or ignorant  
breach of the laws of nature  
It follows therefore  
that timely return to those laws  
should mean restoration

*Y*oung men  
claiming to be  
the fathers of tomorrow  
should be the salt of the nation  
If  
the salt loses its flavour  
wherewith  
shall it be salted





No culture can live  
if it attempts  
to be  
exclusive



Our children must  
from their infancy  
be taught the dignity of labour



*L*iteracy is not the end of education  
nor even the beginning  
It is only one of the means whereby  
men and women can be educated  
Literacy in itself  
is  
no education



*W*henever you are  
confronted with an opponent  
conquer him  
with love



One who has appreciated  
the value of studies  
is  
a student  
all his life



I am uncompromising in the matter  
of women's rights  
She should labour under no legal disability  
not suffered by men  
I should treat the  
daughters and sons  
on a footing of  
perfect equality




*T*he real property that a parent  
can  
transmit to all equally  
is his or her character  
and  
educational facilities

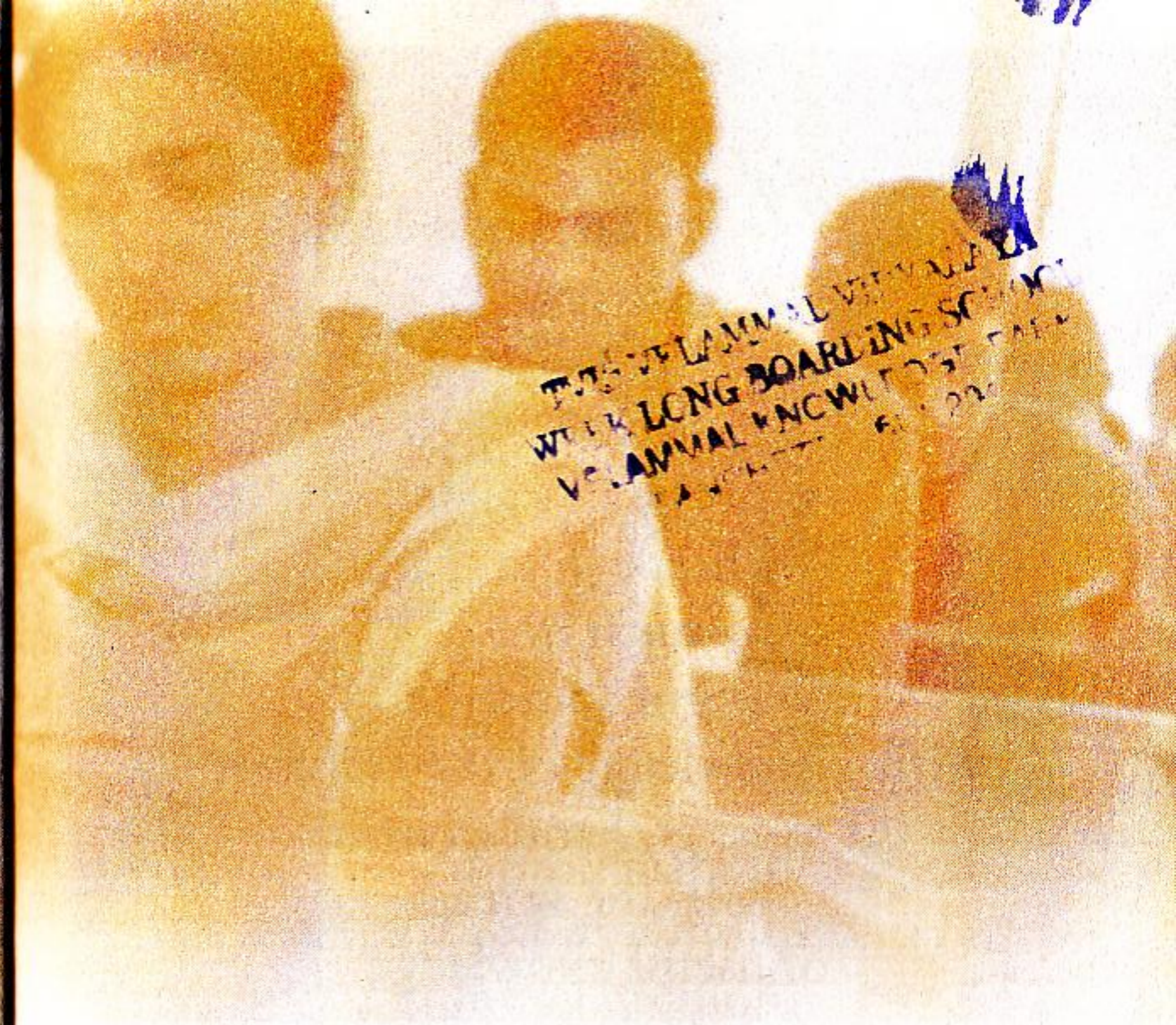
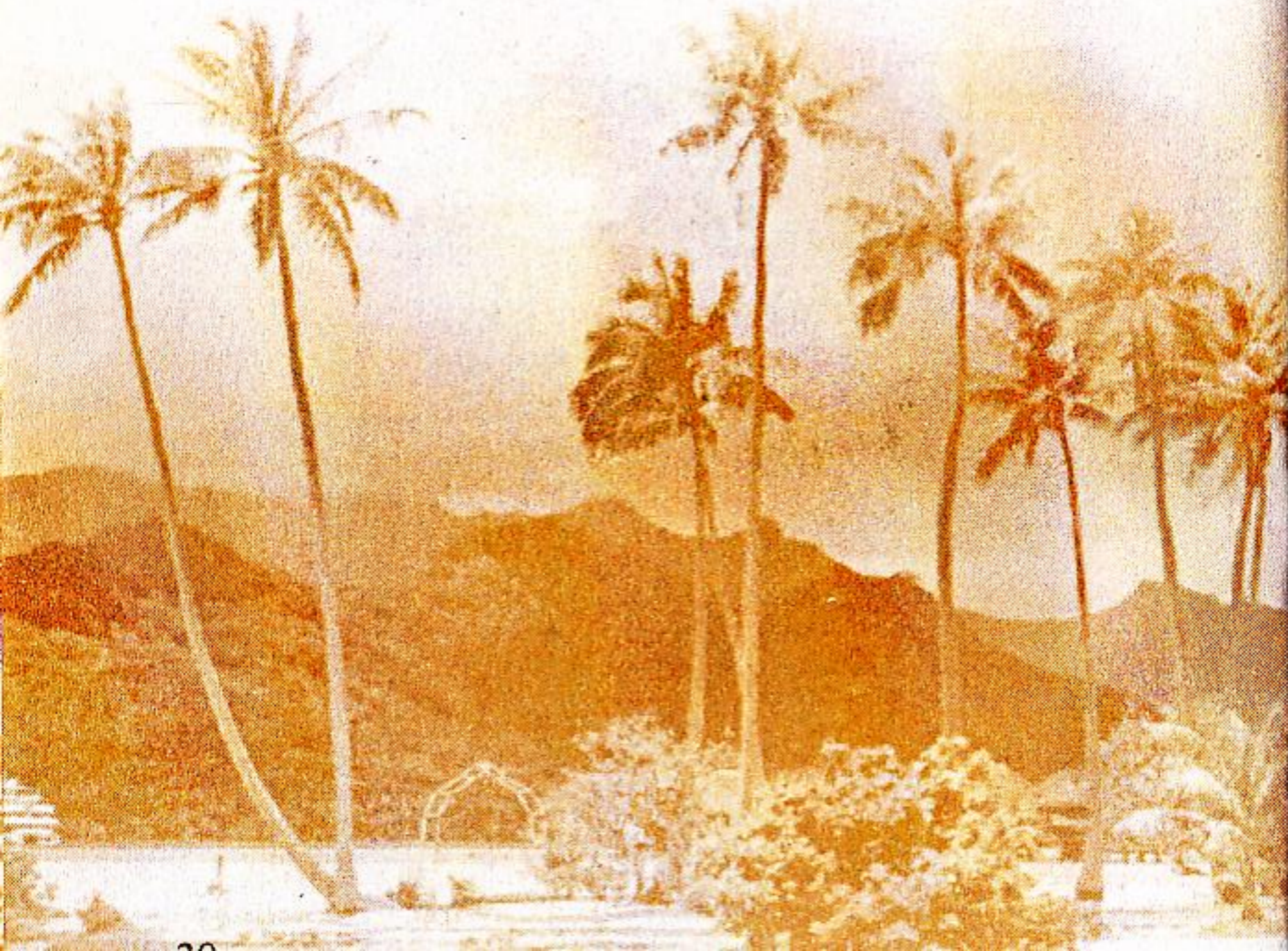


*A* coward is  
incapable of  
exhibiting love  
it is the prerogative  
of the brave






Culture of the mind  
must be  
subservient  
to the heart

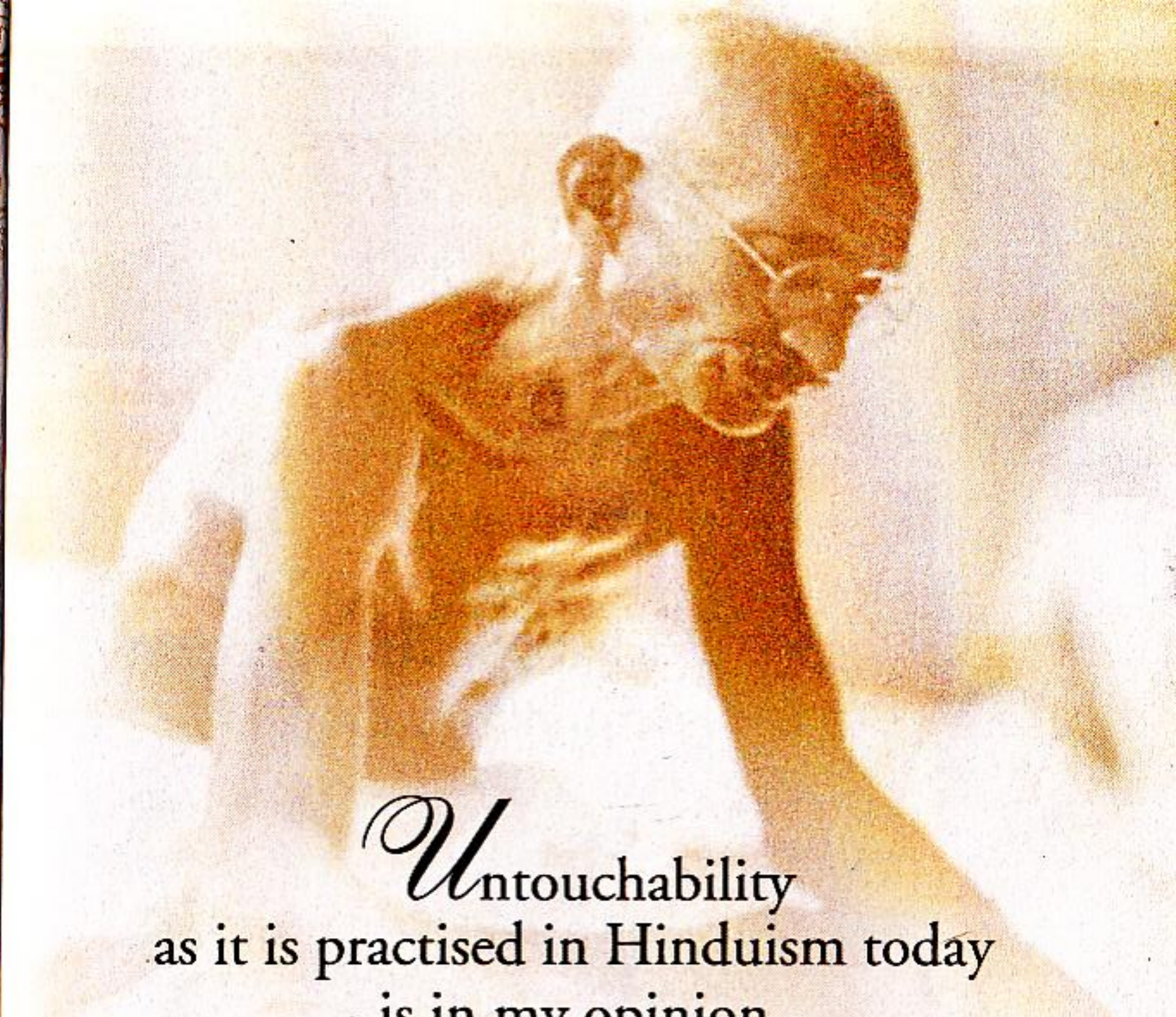



THE VELAMMAL VELAMMAL  
WITH LONG BOARDING SCHOOL  
VELAMMAL KNCW POST OFFICE  
1920


You can chain me  
you can torture me  
you can even destroy this body  
but you will never  
imprison my mind



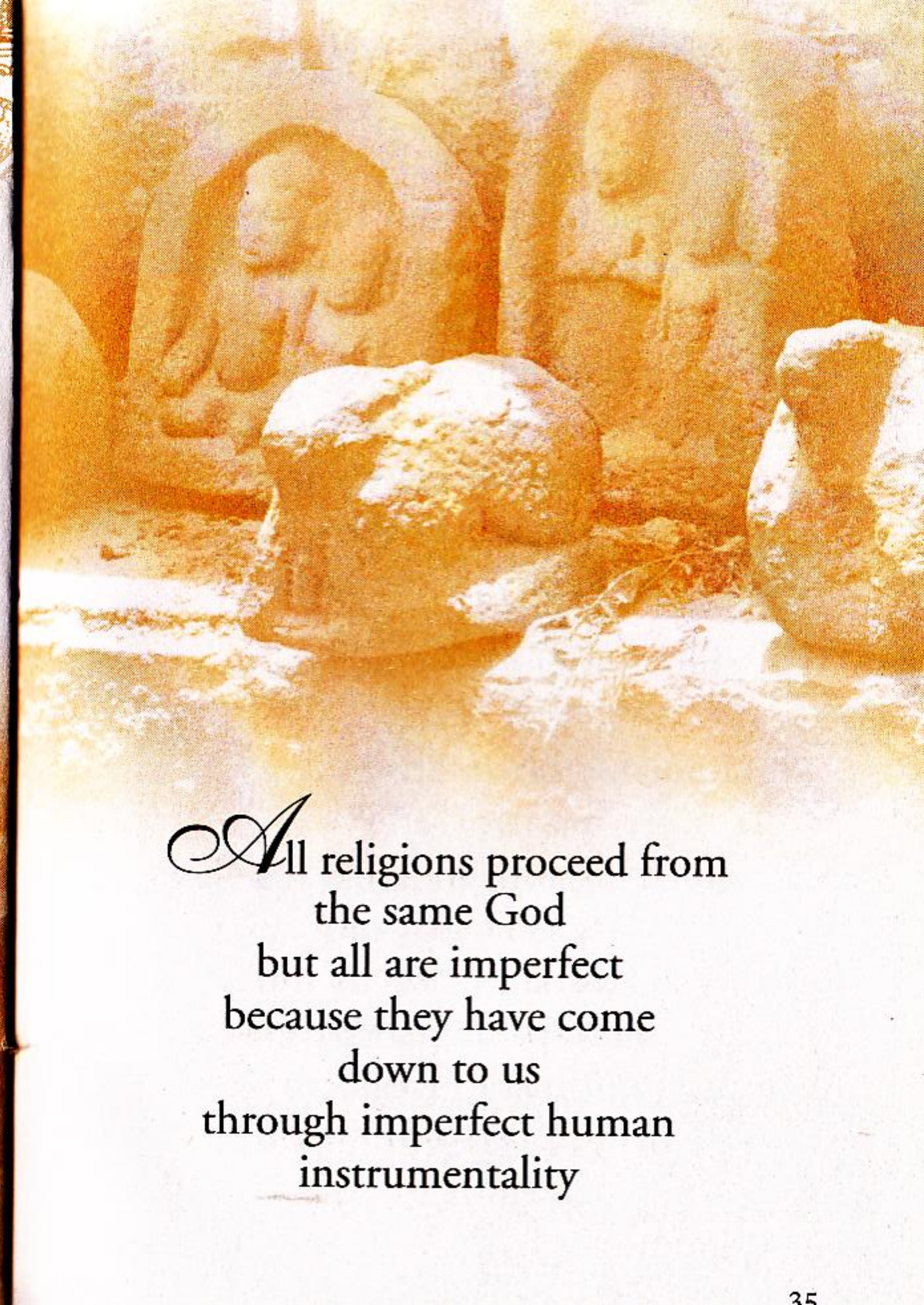

*M*ass illiteracy is India's  
sin and  
shame  
and  
must be liquidated  
The literacy campaign  
must not  
begin and end  
with a knowledge of the alphabet  
It must go hand in hand  
with the spread  
of useful knowledge




*U*ntouchability  
as it is practised in Hinduism today  
is in my opinion  
a sin against God and man  
and is like a  
poison slowly eating into the very  
vitals of Hinduism  
In my opinion  
it has no sanction whatsoever  
in the Hindu Shastras



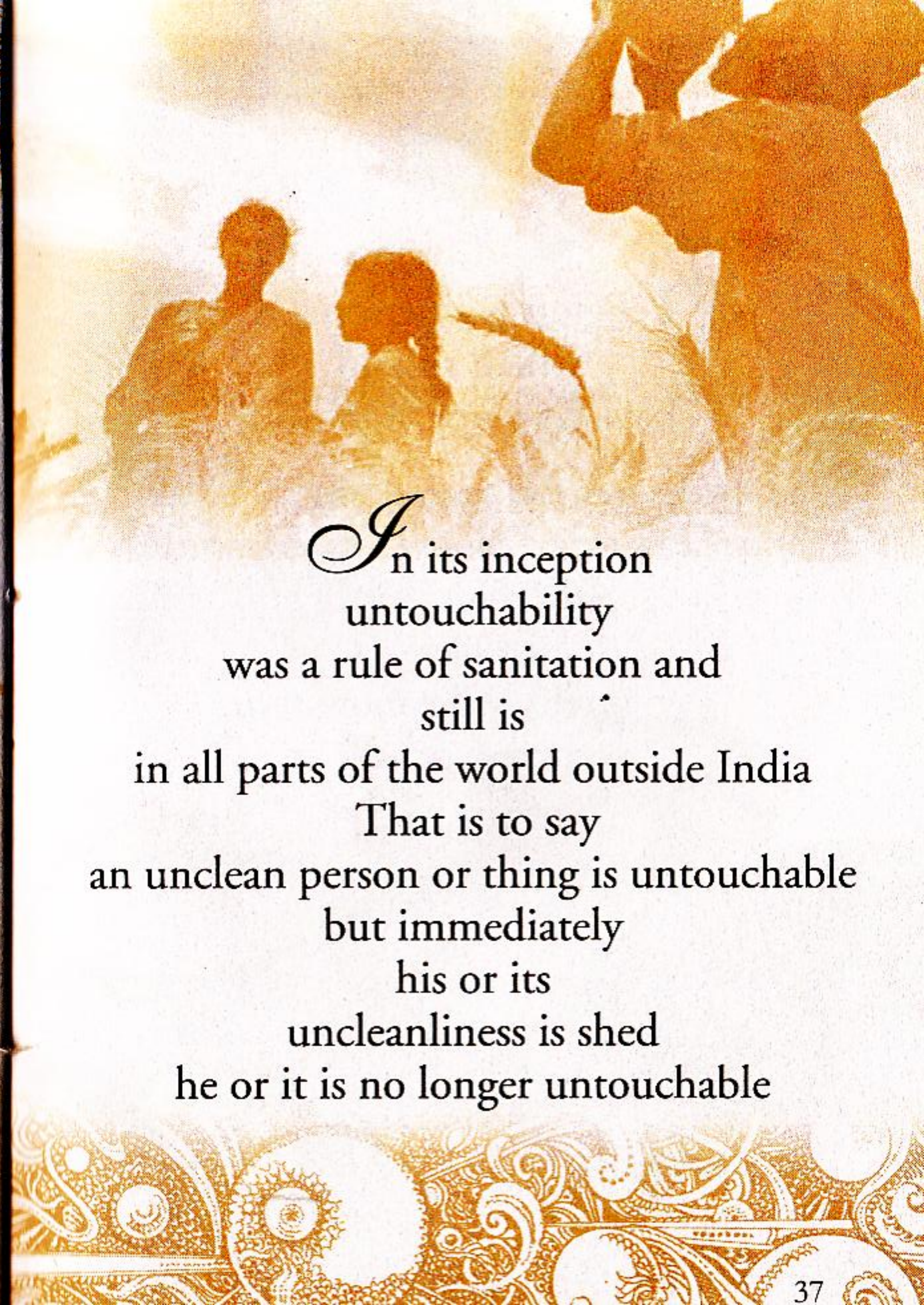


*H*appiness is  
when what you think  
what you say  
and  
what you do  
are in harmony




*A*ll religions proceed from  
the same God  
but all are imperfect  
because they have come  
down to us  
through imperfect human  
instrumentality




*T*he bane of our life is our  
exclusive provincialism  
whereas  
my province must be  
co-extensive with the Indian boundary  
so that ultimately it  
extends to the  
boundary of the earth  
Else it perishes




*I*n its inception  
untouchability  
was a rule of sanitation and  
still is  
in all parts of the world outside India  
That is to say  
an unclean person or thing is untouchable  
but immediately  
his or its  
uncleanliness is shed  
he or it is no longer untouchable

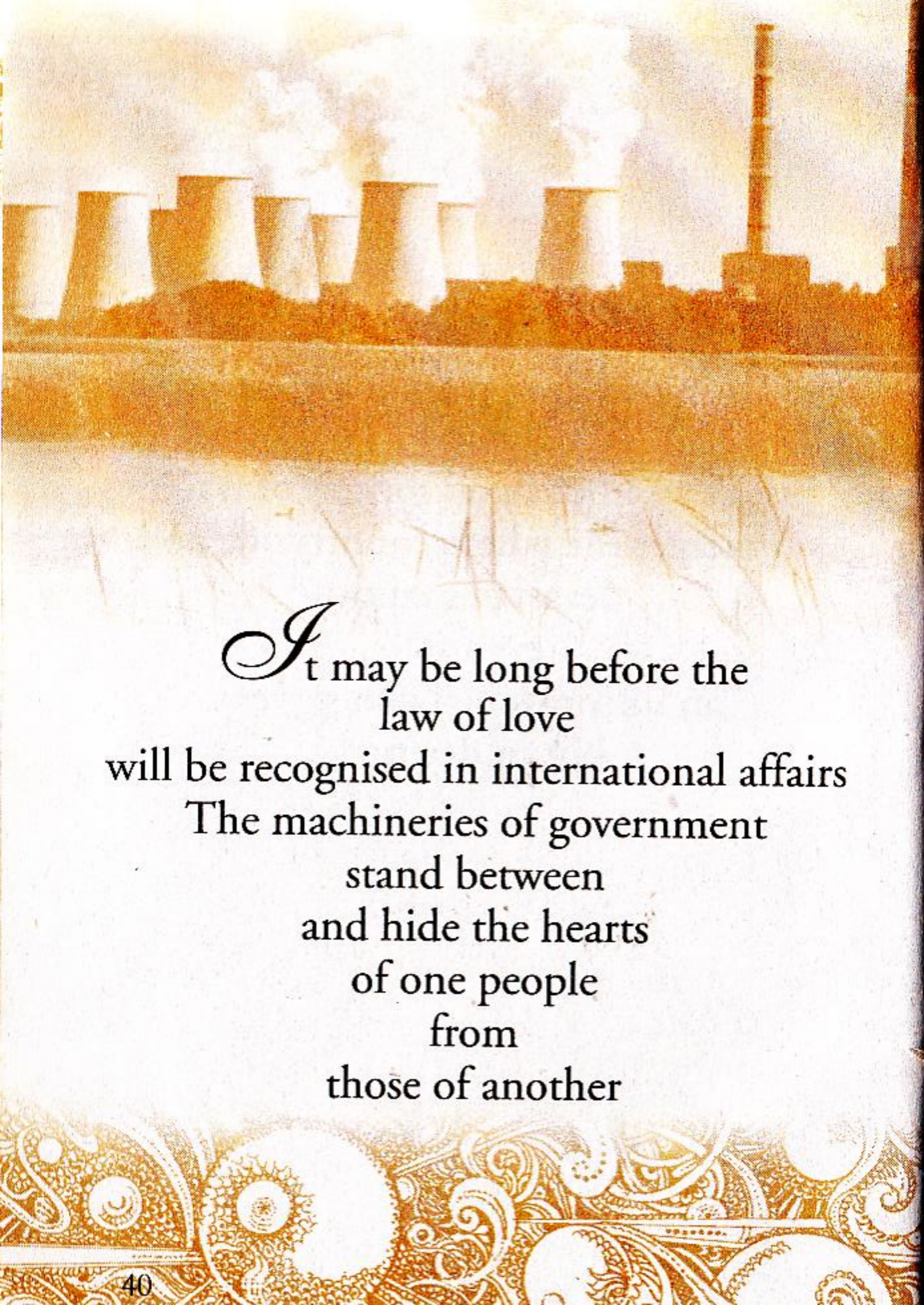


*R*eligion is a personal matter  
which should  
have no place in politics



*T*he newspaper press is a great power  
but  
just as an unchained torrent of water  
submerges the whole countryside and  
devastates crops  
even so  
an uncontrolled pen serves  
but to destroy





*I*t may be long before the  
law of love  
will be recognised in international affairs  
The machineries of government  
stand between  
and hide the hearts  
of one people  
from  
those of another

*T*he remedy against cowardice  
is not physical culture  
but the braving of dangers

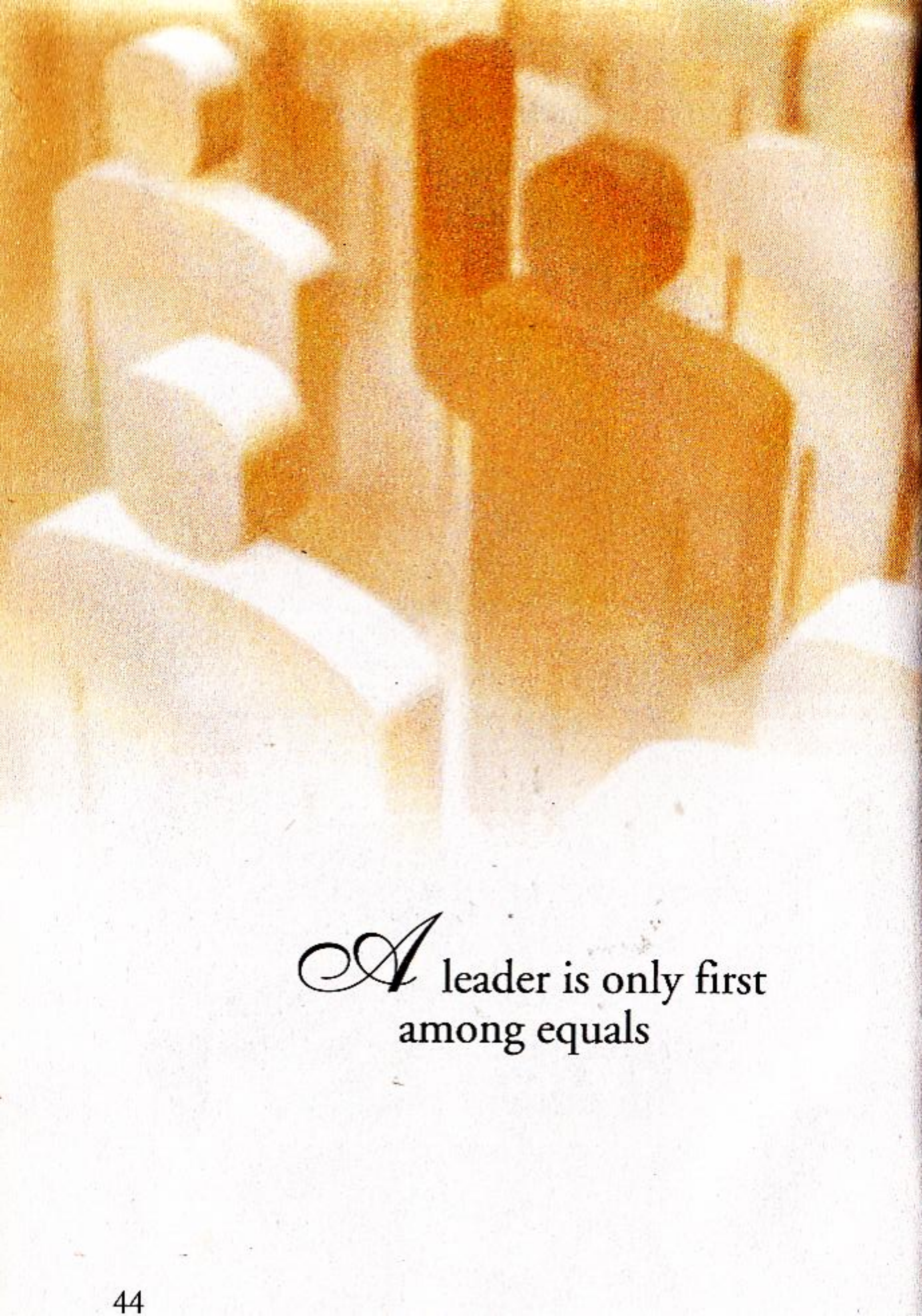





*T*here will have to be  
rigid and iron discipline  
before we achieve  
anything great and enduring  
Discipline is learnt in  
the school of  
adversity

*T*hose who claim  
to lead the masses  
must resolutely refuse  
to be led by them






*A* leader is only first  
among equals



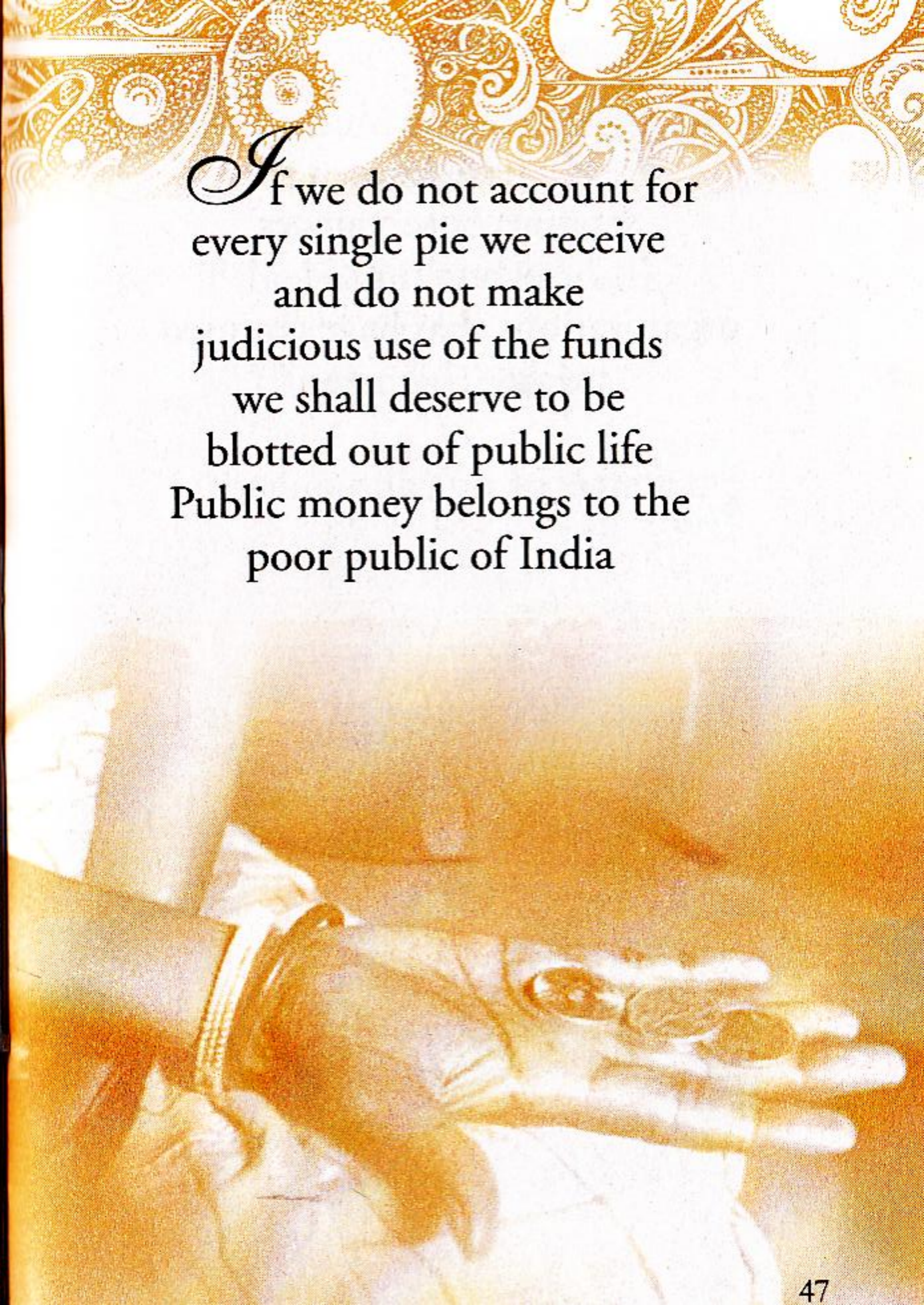
*N*o school of thought can  
claim a monopoly of right judgment  
In a vast country like this  
there must be room for  
all schools of honest thought





*I* am convinced that the masses  
do not want to fight  
if  
the leaders do not

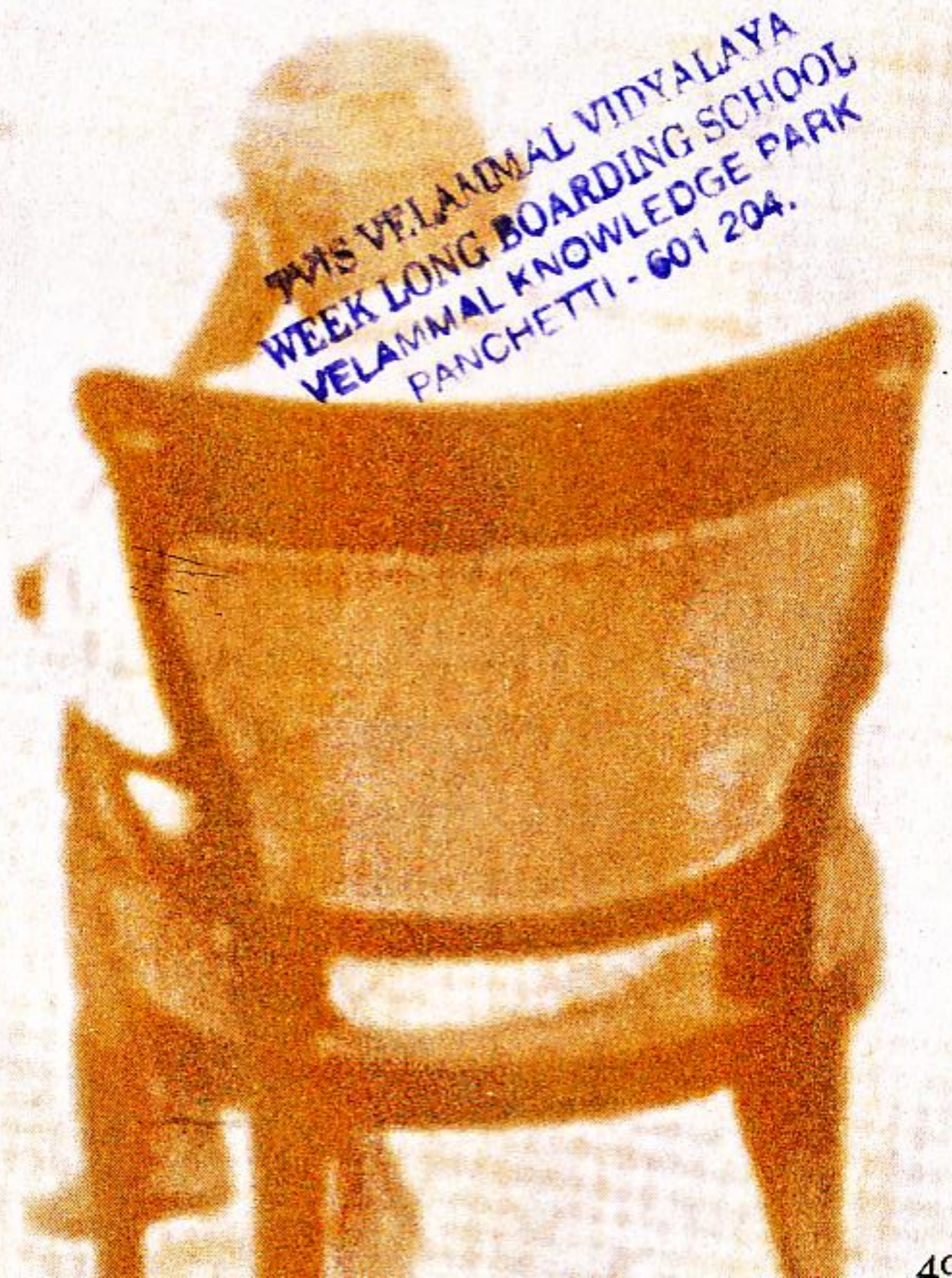
*I* f we do not account for  
every single pie we receive  
and do not make  
judicious use of the funds  
we shall deserve to be  
blotted out of public life  
Public money belongs to the  
poor public of India



*I* have known the  
serious consequences  
overtaking  
organizations that have counted  
private character  
as  
a matter of no consequence

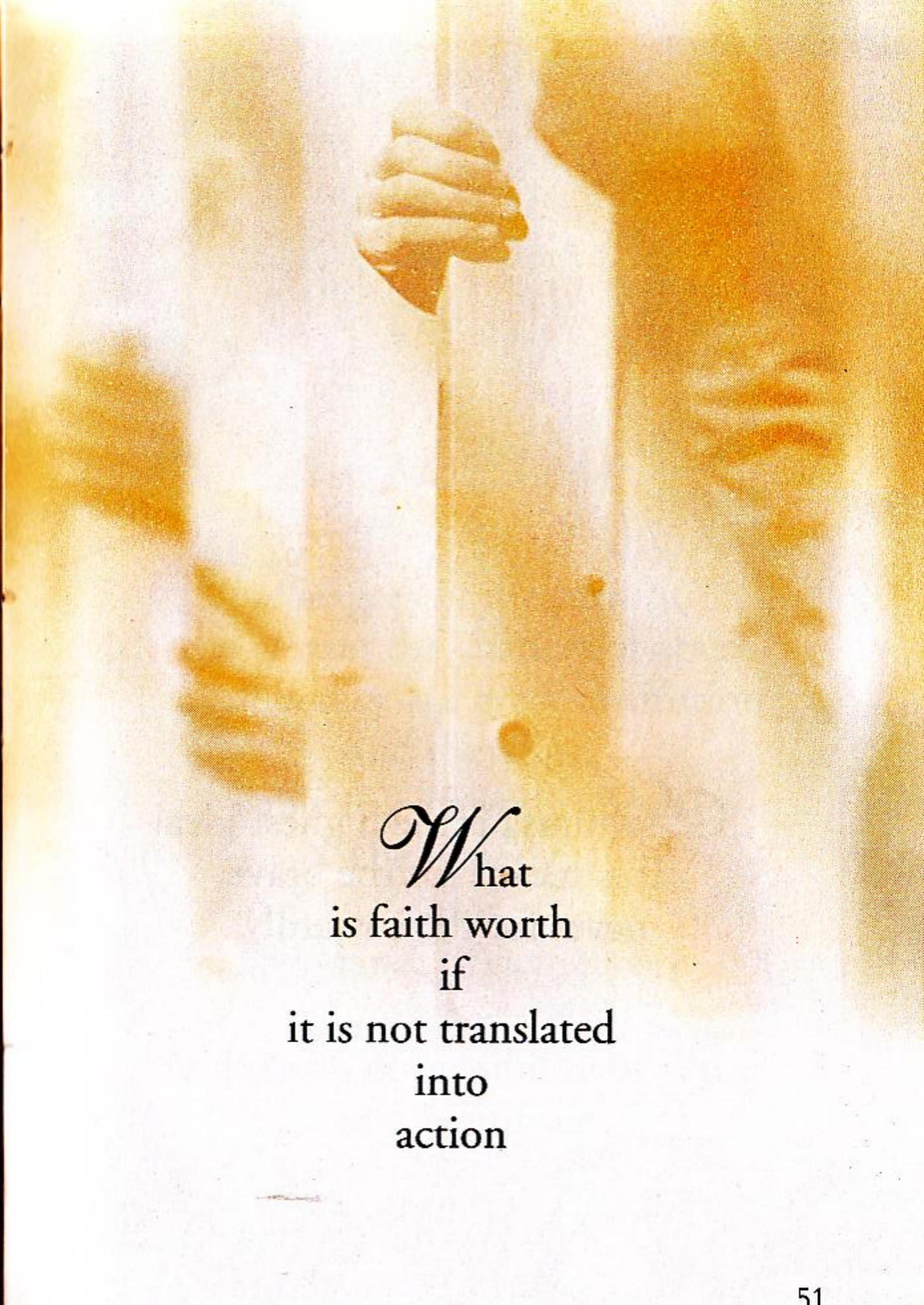


*I*t would be a distinct gain  
to  
the national cause  
if the leaders and workers  
strictly  
keep their hours







*A*ction for one's own self binds  
Action for the sake of others  
delivers from bondage



*W*hat  
is faith worth  
if  
it is not translated  
into  
action



*A*himsa is the highest ideal  
It is meant for the brave  
never for the cowardly

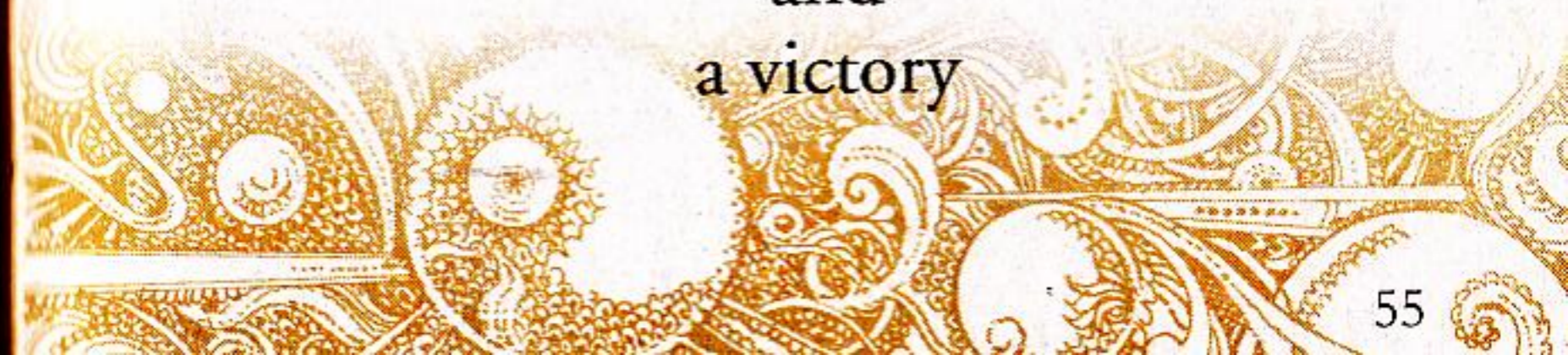


*T*he greater the institution  
the greater the chances of abuse  
Democracy is a great institution  
and therefore  
liable to be greatly abused  
The remedy is  
not  
avoidance of democracy  
but  
reduction of possibility of abuse  
to a minimum

None low  
none high  
in the individual body  
The head is not high  
because it is the top of the body  
nor are the soles of the feet low  
because they touch the earth  
Even as members of the  
individual body are equal  
so are the members of society  
This is socialism



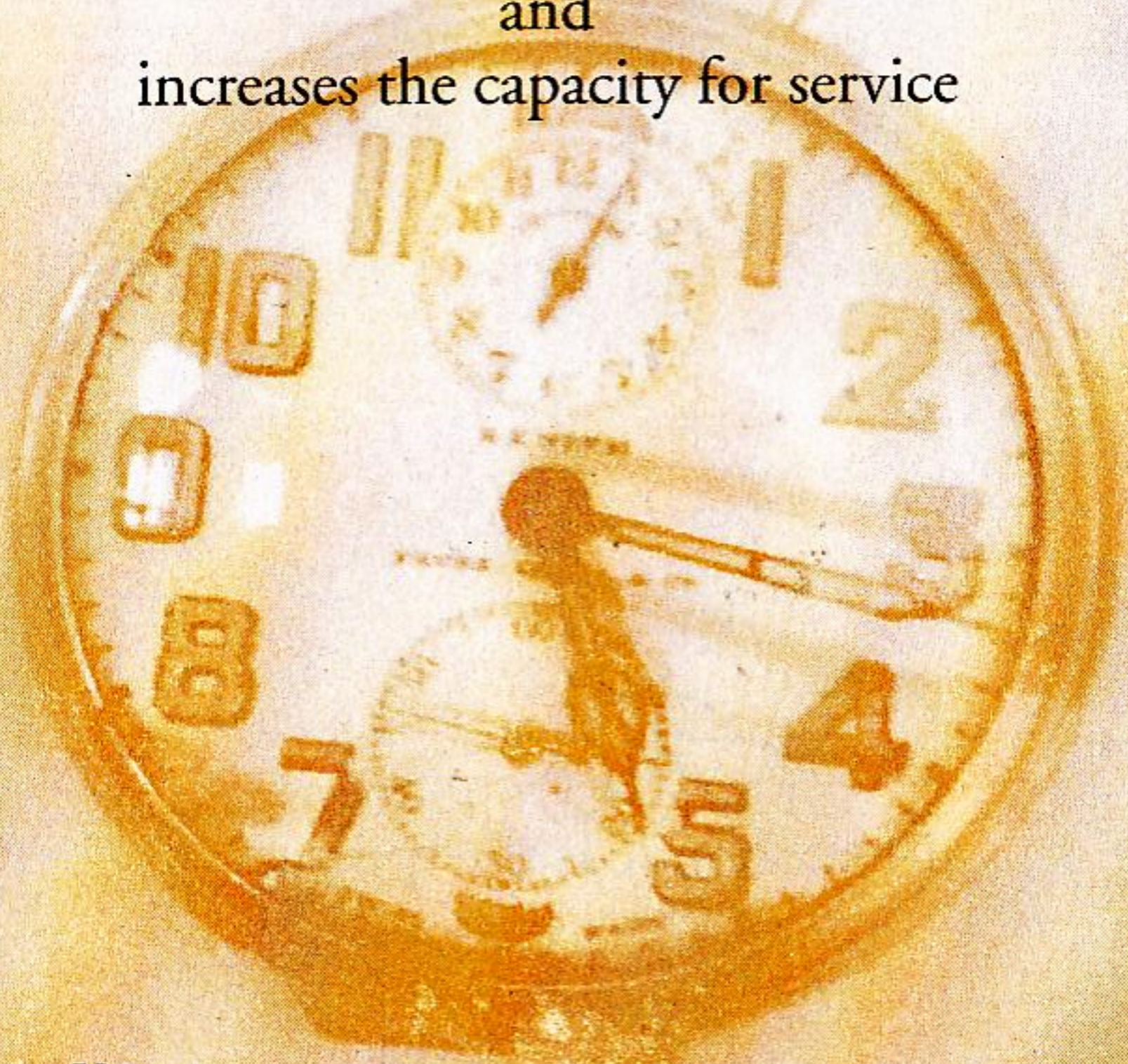
Every worthwhile accomplishment  
big or little  
has its stage of  
drudgery and triumph  
a beginning  
a struggle  
and  
a victory



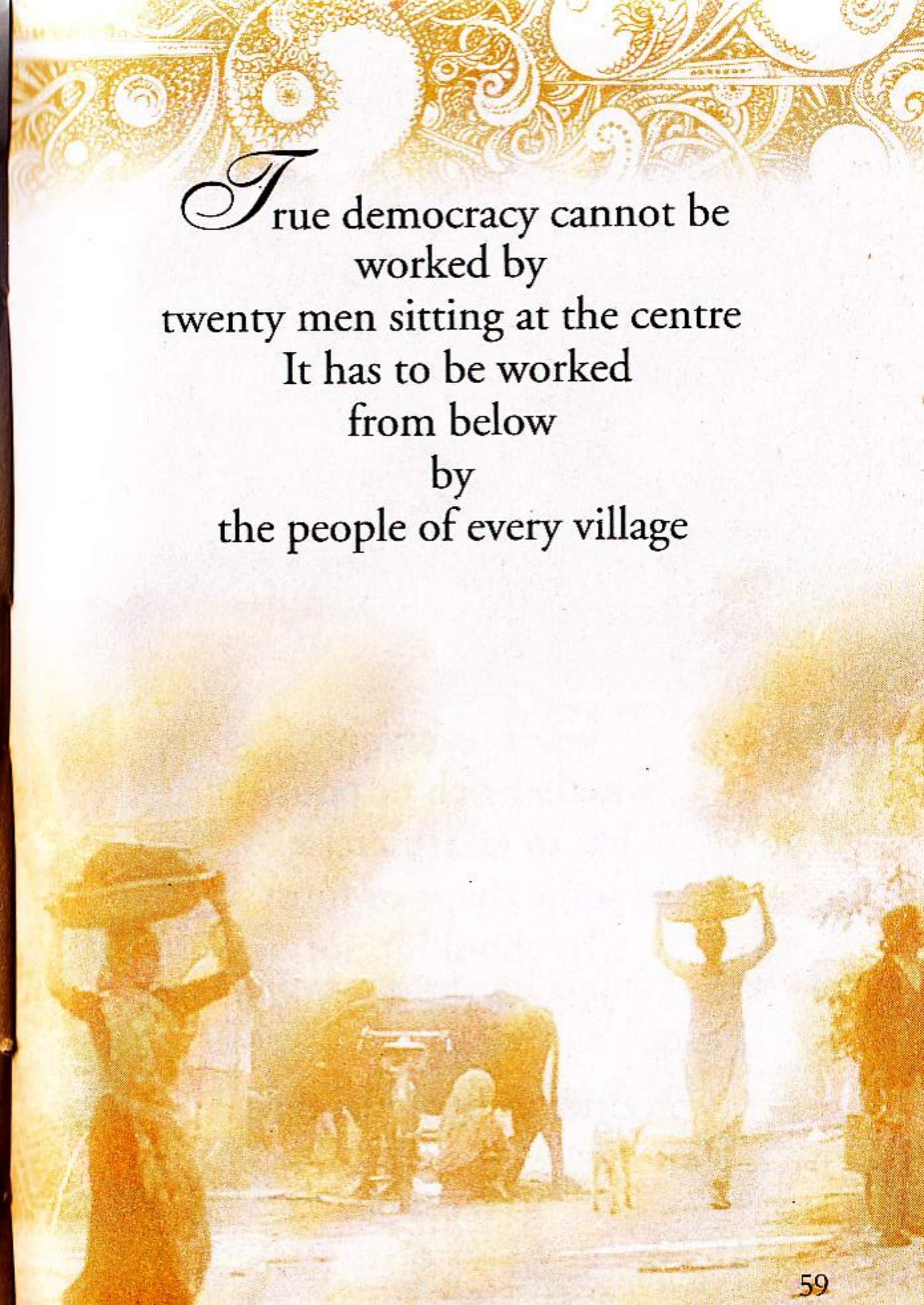
*We* should be ashamed of resting  
or  
having a square meal  
so long as there is  
one able-bodied  
man or woman  
without work or food


*F*or the poor  
the economic is the spiritual

Civilization  
in the real sense of the term consists  
not in the multiplication  
but  
in the deliberate and voluntary reduction  
of wants  
which promotes  
real happiness and contentment  
and  
increases the capacity for service




True democracy cannot be  
worked by  
twenty men sitting at the centre  
It has to be worked  
from below  
by  
the people of every village

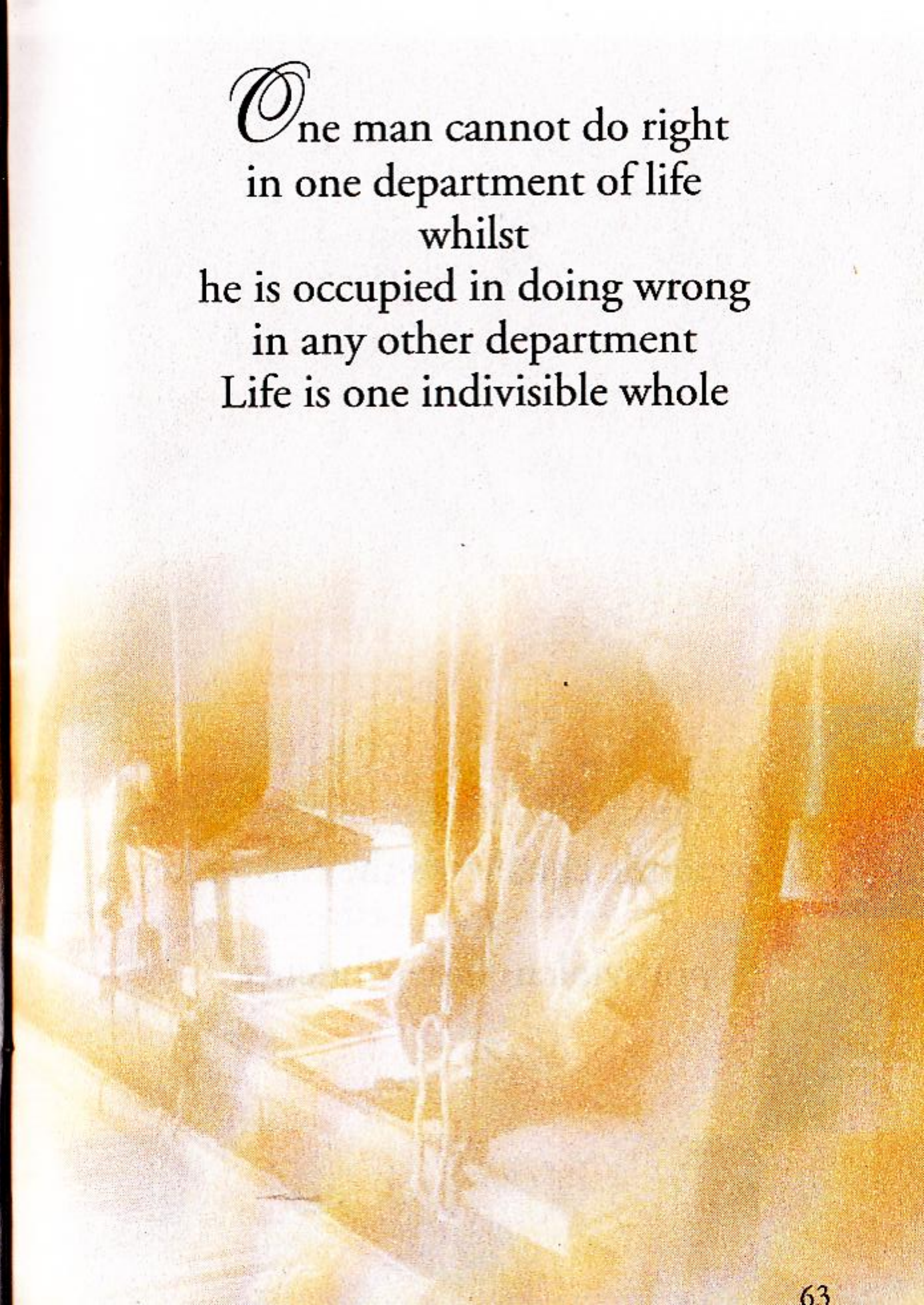




*I*f everyone  
whether rich or poor  
has to take exercise  
in some shape or form  
why should it not  
assume the form  
of  
productive bread labour?

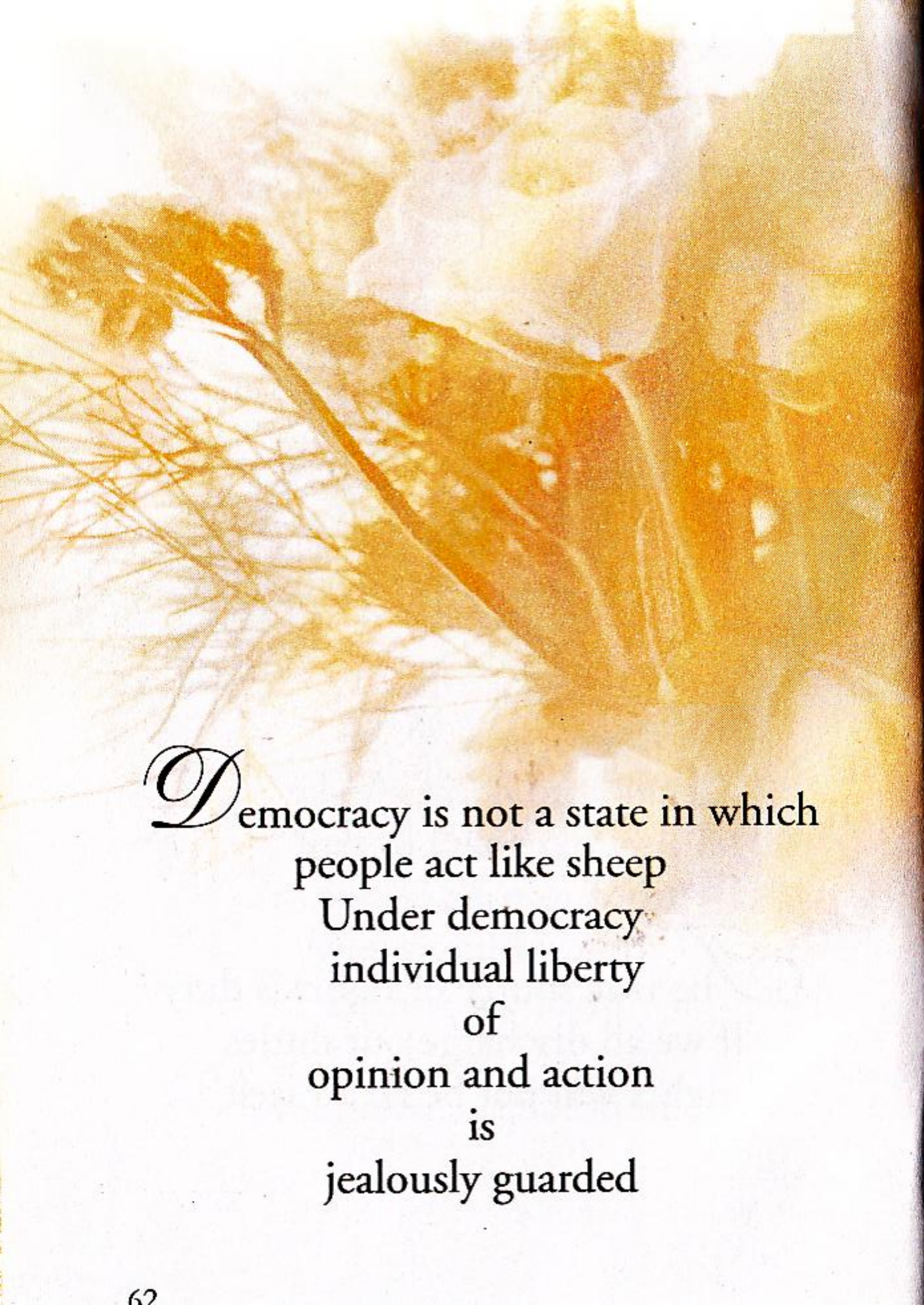


*T*he true source of rights is duty  
If we all discharge our duties  
rights will not be far to seek



One man cannot do right  
in one department of life  
whilst

he is occupied in doing wrong  
in any other department  
Life is one indivisible whole



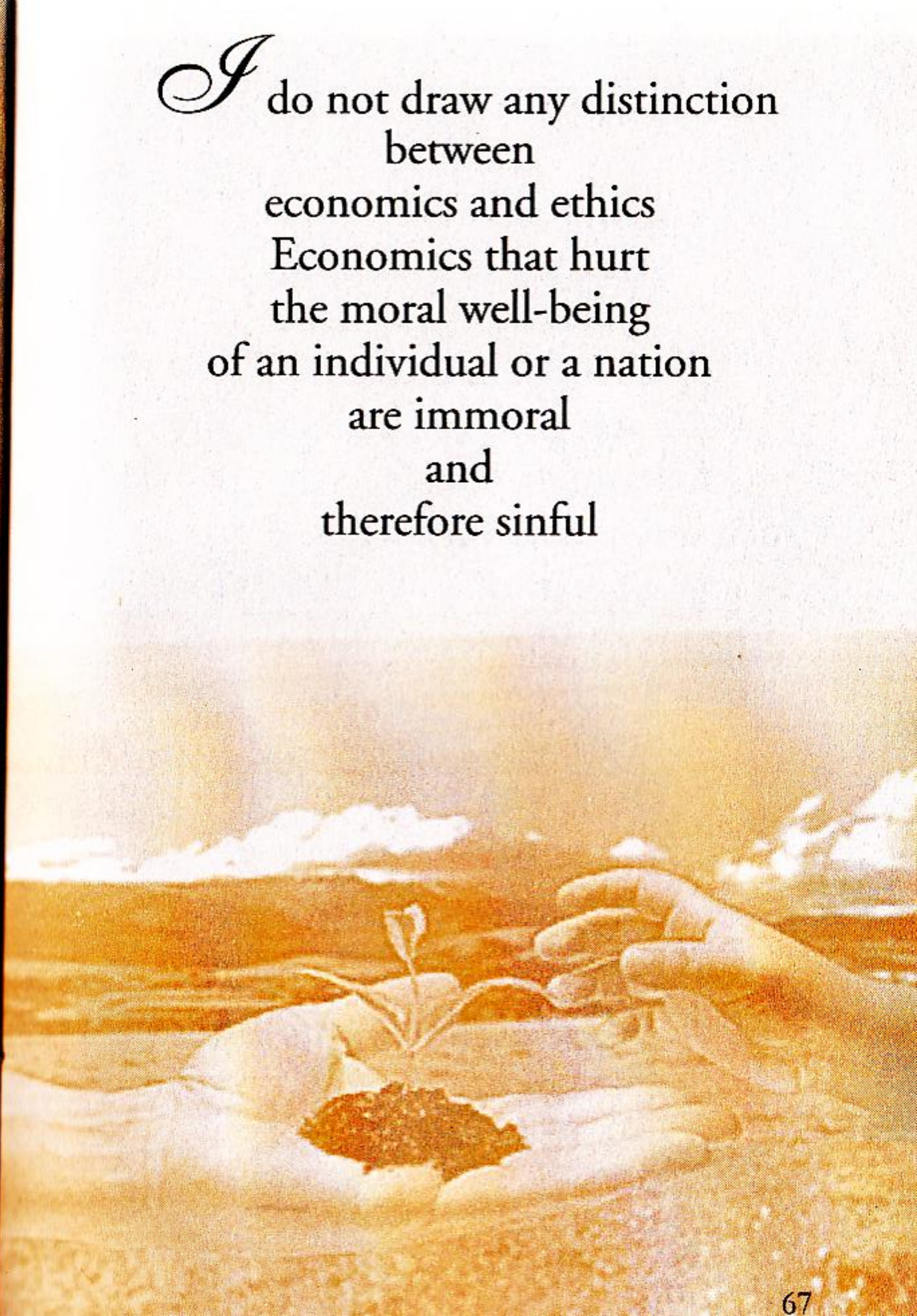
Democracy is not a state in which  
people act like sheep  
Under democracy  
individual liberty  
of  
opinion and action  
is  
jealously guarded



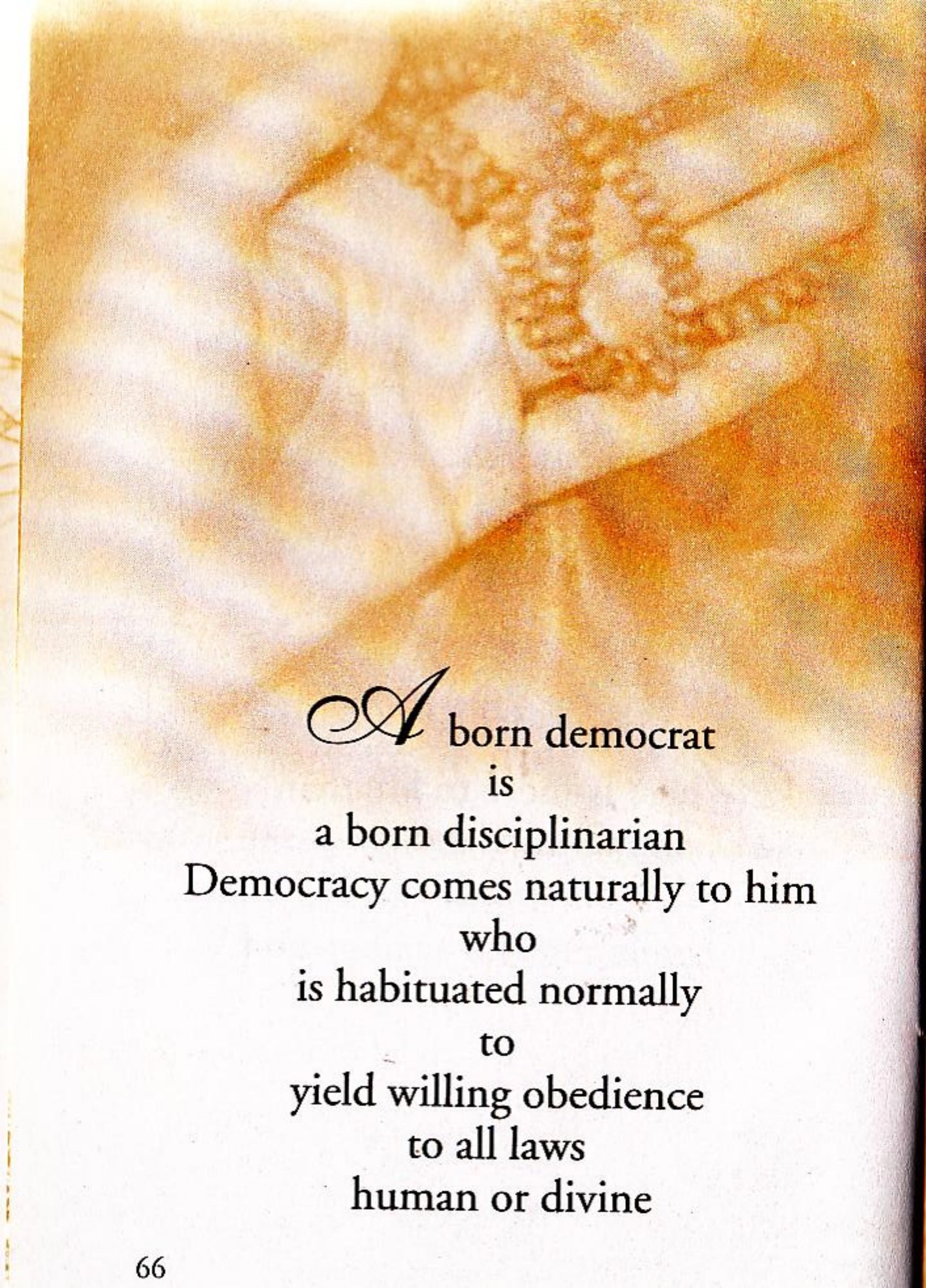
*E*conomic equality is the master key  
to  
non-violent independence



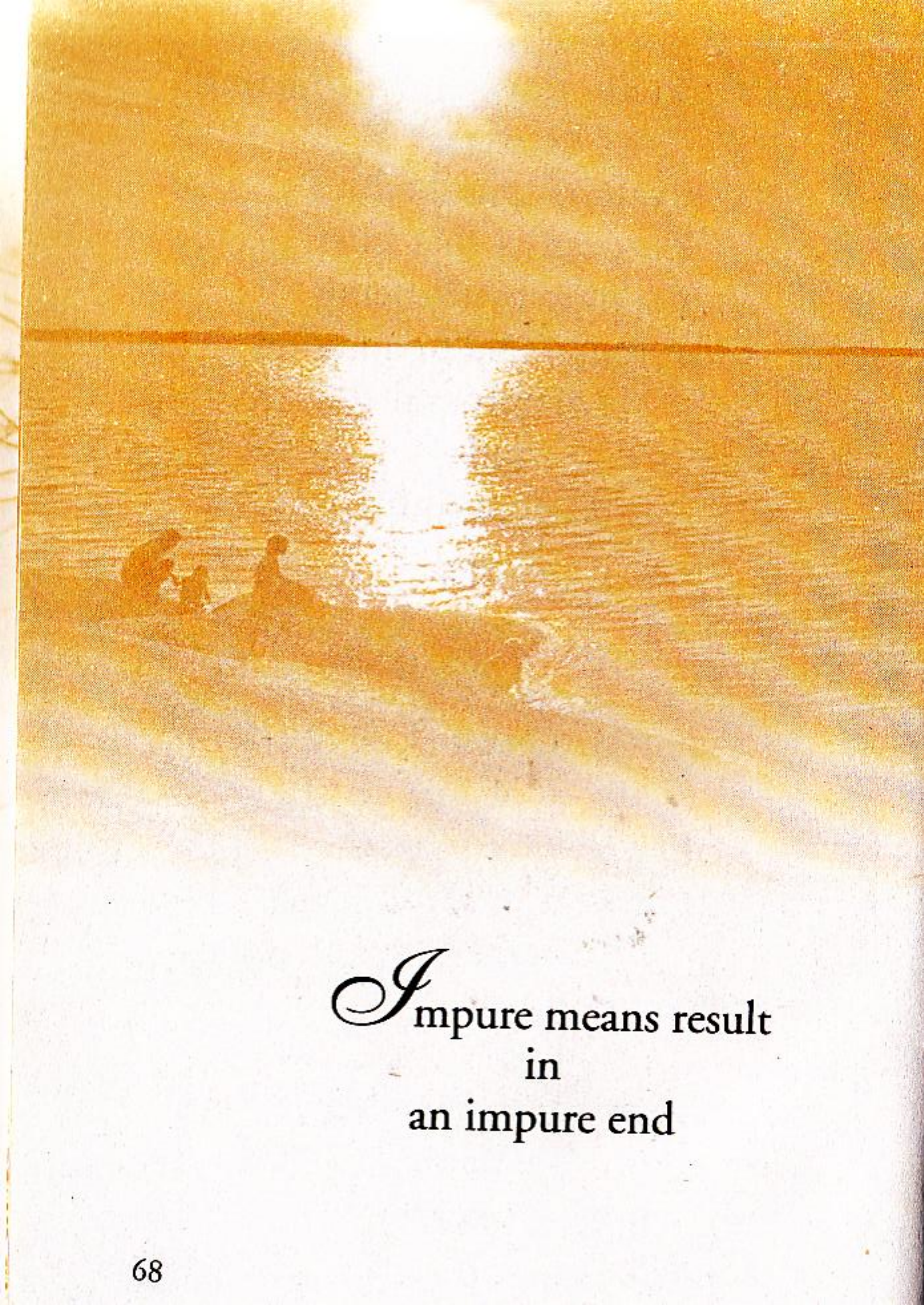
*T*here is more to life than  
simply increasing  
its speed




*I* do not draw any distinction  
between  
economics and ethics  
Economics that hurt  
the moral well-being  
of an individual or a nation  
are immoral  
and  
therefore sinful




*A* born democrat  
is  
a born disciplinarian  
Democracy comes naturally to him  
who  
is habituated normally  
to  
yield willing obedience  
to all laws  
human or divine



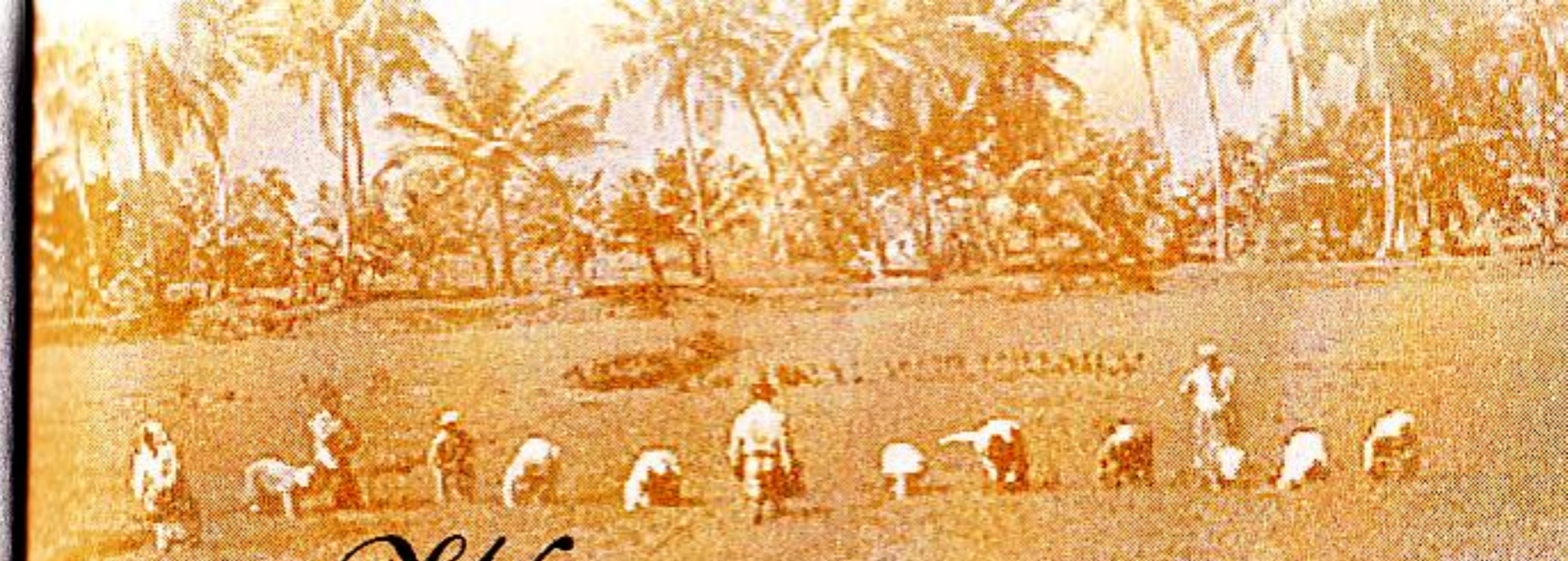
*I*mpure means result  
in  
an impure end




*I* look upon an increase in  
the power of the State  
with the greatest fear  
Because although while  
apparently doing good  
by minimizing exploitation  
it does the greatest harm to mankind  
by destroying individuality  
which lies at the root of all progress




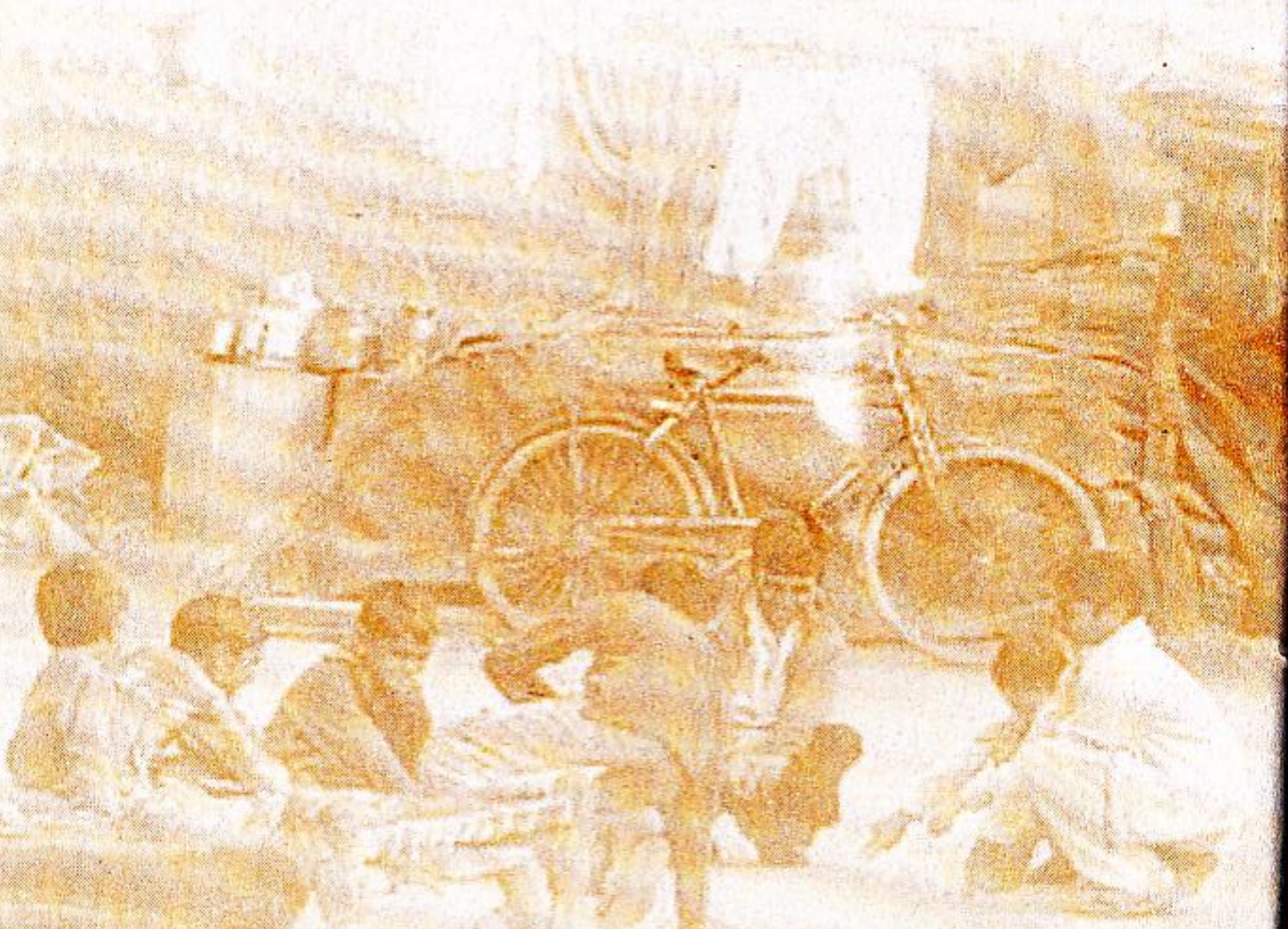
*D*isobedience  
to be civil  
must be  
sincere, respectful, restrained  
never defiant  
must be based upon  
some well-understood principle  
must not be capricious  
and  
above all  
must have no ill-will or hatred behind it



*W*e must identify ourselves  
with the villagers  
who toil under the hot sun  
beating on their bent backs  
and see  
how we would like to  
drink water from the pool  
in which the villagers bathe  
wash their clothes and pots  
in which their cattle drink and roll  
Then  
and not till then  
shall we truly represent the masses  
and they will  
as surely as I am writing this  
respond to every call



*I*would say that if the village perishes  
India will perish too  
India will be no more India



*T*here is a great deal of truth in  
the saying that  
man becomes what he eats  
The grosser the food  
the grosser the body




Even Swadeshi  
like any other good thing  
can be ridden to death  
if it is made a fetish  
That is a danger  
that must be guarded against



An eye for an eye  
makes the whole world  
blind

*W*hen Panchayat Raj is established  
public opinion will do  
what violence  
can never do




*K*hadi mentality means  
decentralization of  
the production and distribution  
of  
the necessities of life

A man is  
but the product of his thoughts  
What he thinks  
he  
becomes


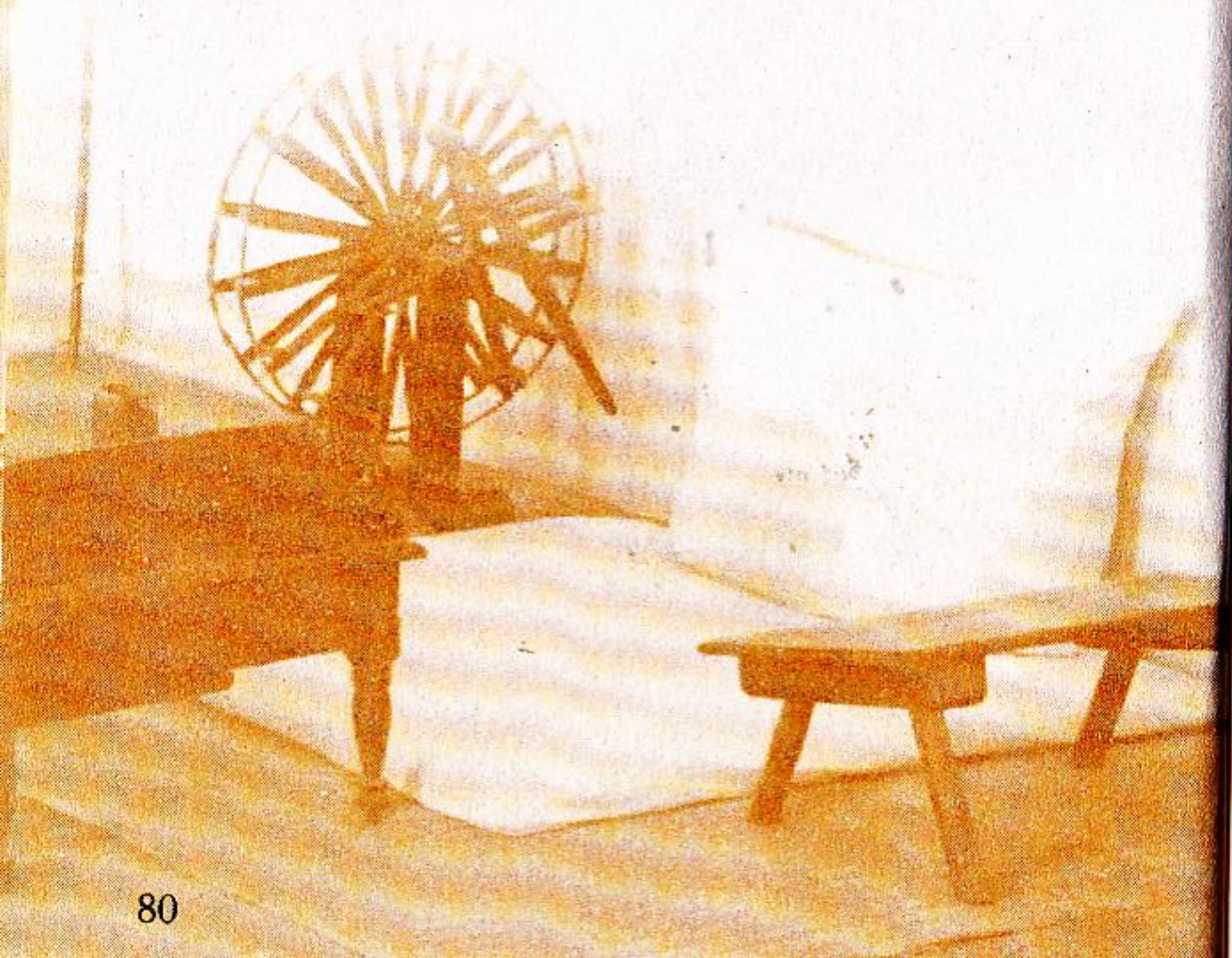


A man's real teacher is himself

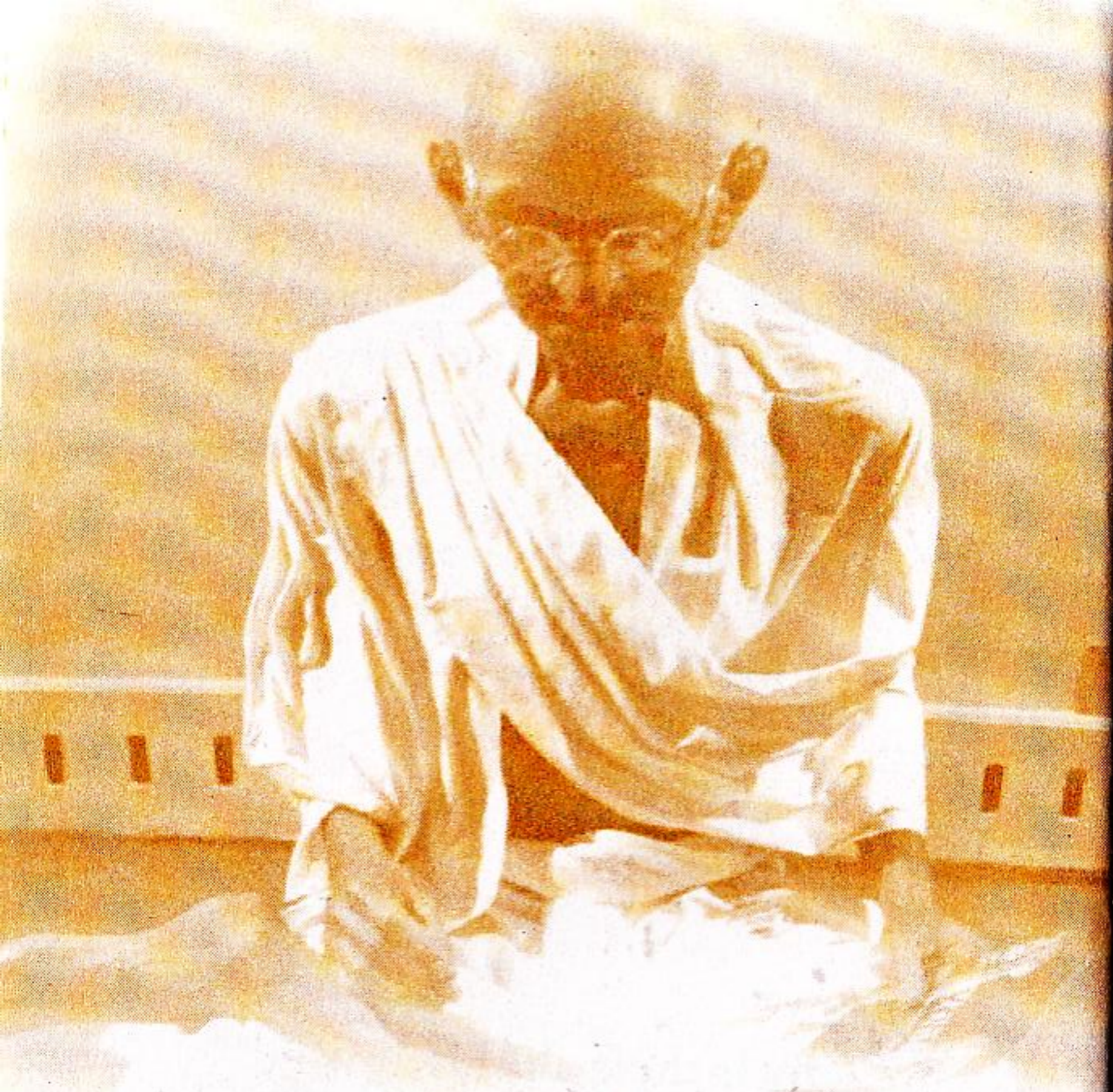




*M*oral results can only be produced  
by moral restraints  
All other restraints  
defeat the very purpose  
for which they are intended



*W*hy is there all this morbid  
anxiety about female purity  
Have women any say in the  
matter of male purity  
We hear nothing of women's  
anxiety about men's chastity



*T*he moment there is suspicion about  
a person's motives  
everything he does  
becomes tainted



*H*indus  
if they want  
unity among different races  
must have the courage  
to  
trust the minorities

*I*...claim for the Charkha  
the honour of being able  
to solve the problem of  
economic distress  
in a most natural  
simple, inexpensive and  
business like manner

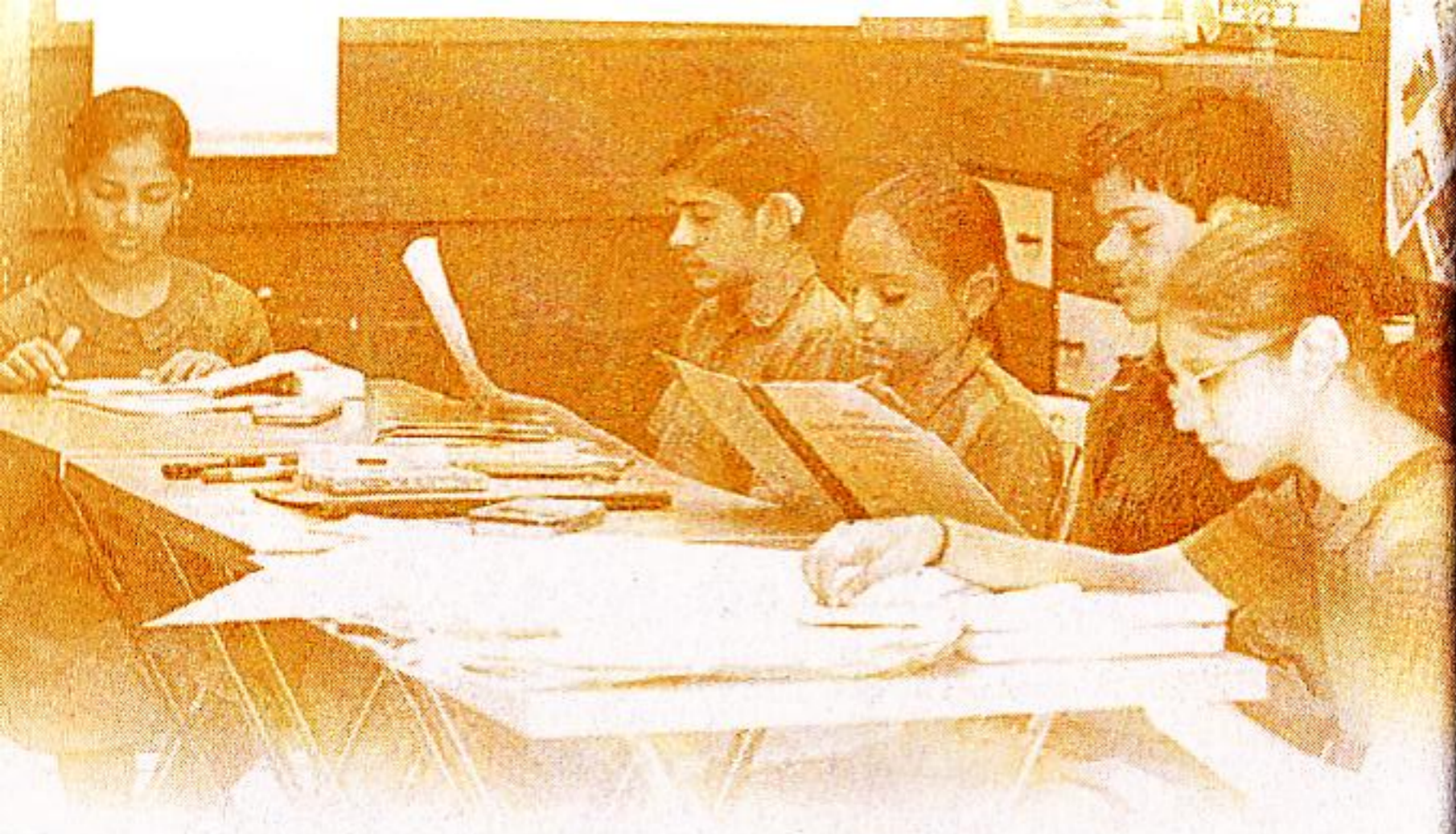


*The* only tyrant I accept in this world  
is  
the still voice within

*Right against  
wrong  
Sande Mahatma  
5.4.30*

સામર્થ્ય સામેની સત્યની આ લડતમાં મારે  
આખા જગતની સહાનુભૂતિ જોઈએ છે.  
— મો. ક. ગાંધી

शक्तिके विरुद्ध न्यायकी इस लड़ाईमें मैं  
सारी दुनियाकी सहानुभूति चाहता हूँ।  
— मो. क. गांधी




*R* Real education has to draw out the best  
from the boys and girls to be educated  
This can never be done  
by packing  
ill-assorted and unwanted information  
into the heads of the pupils  
It becomes a dead weight  
crushing all originality in them  
and  
turning them into mere automata




*F*ree India will be no Hindu raj  
It will be Indian raj based  
not  
on the majority of  
any religious sect or community  
but  
on the representatives of the whole  
people  
without distinction of religion

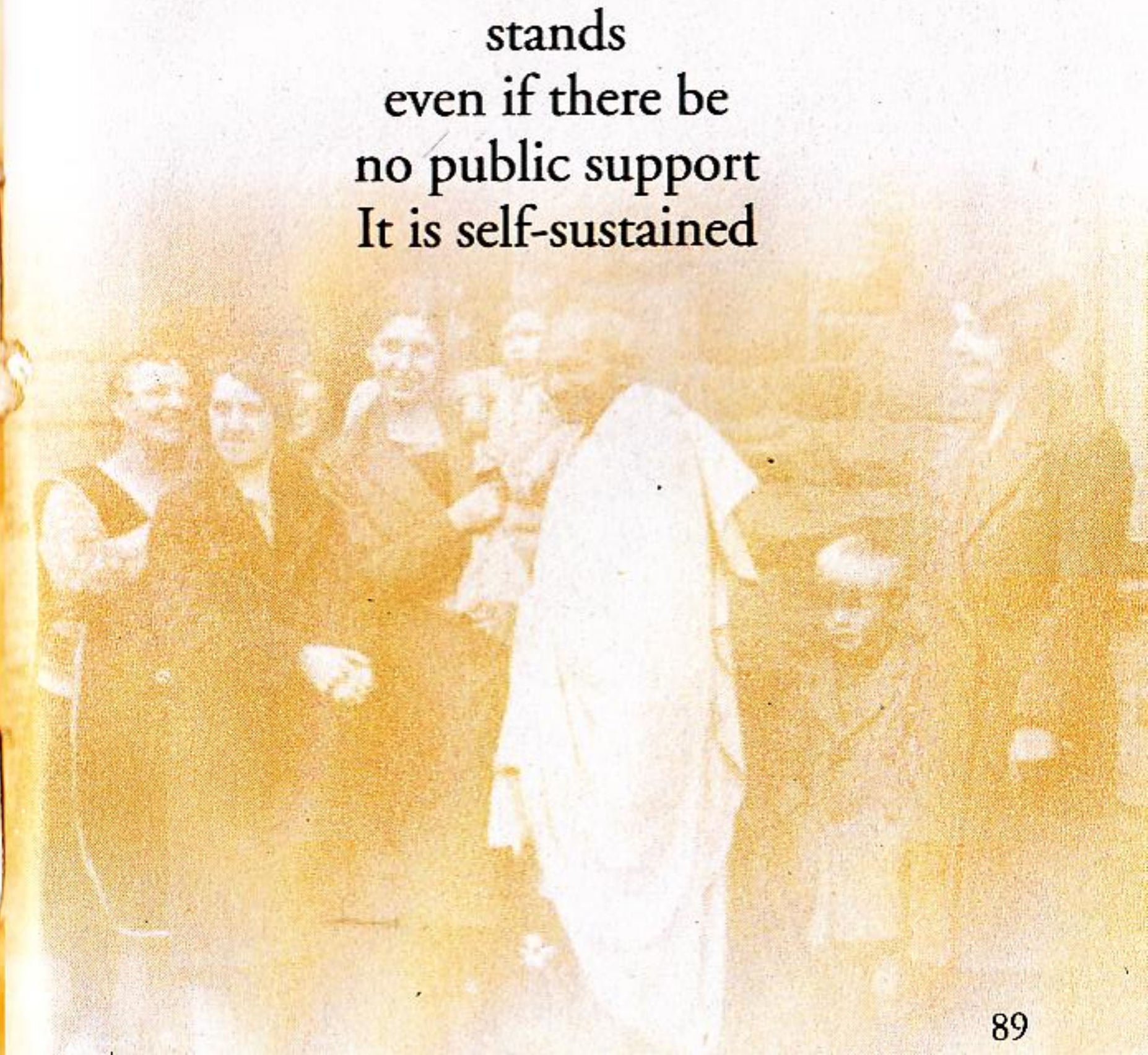




*The* best way to find yourself  
is to lose yourself  
in the service of others



God  
is  
even though  
the whole world  
deny Him  
Truth  
stands  
even if there be  
no public support  
It is self-sustained

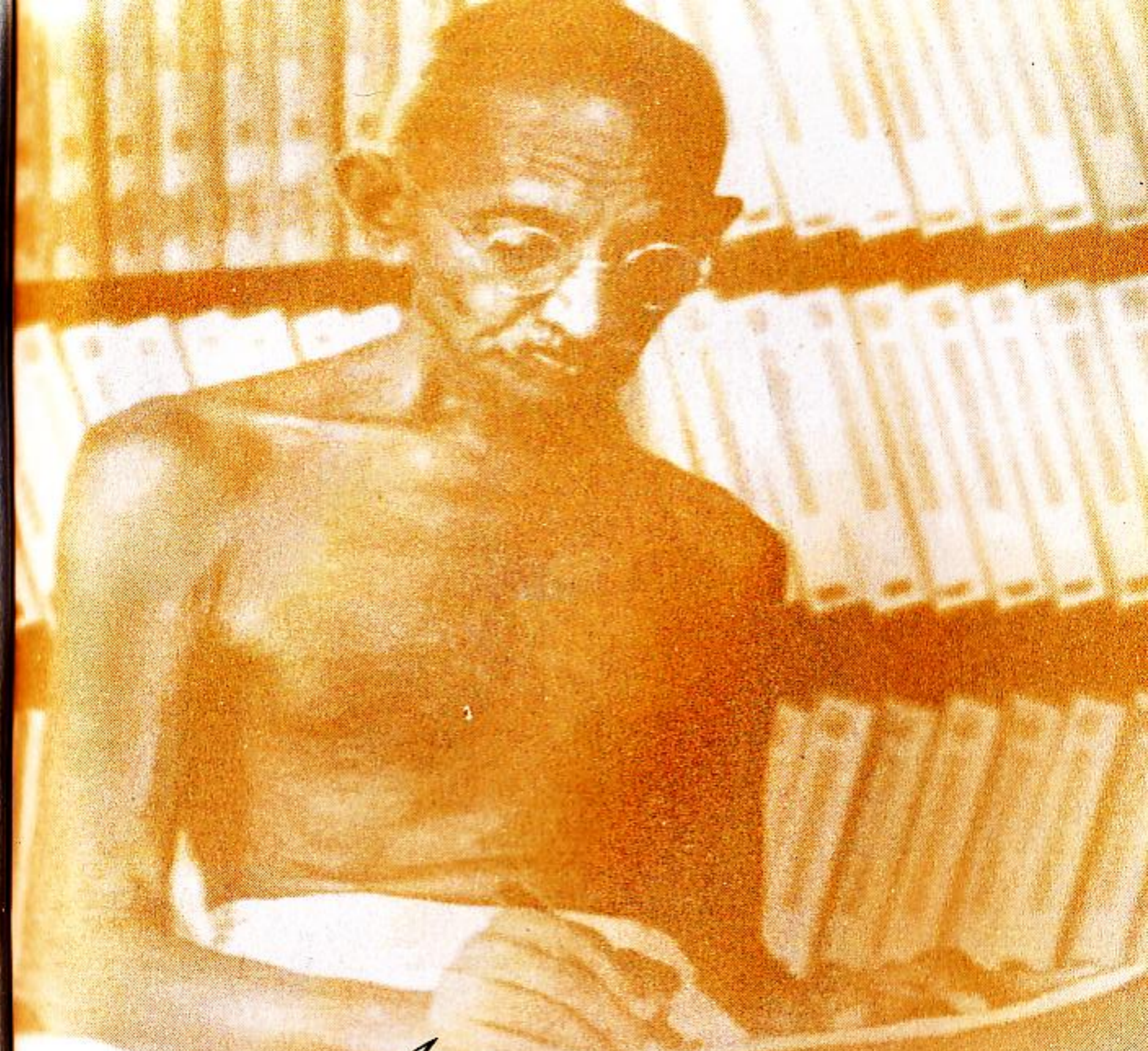


*We* need a common language  
not  
in supersession of the vernaculars  
but  
in addition to them



*The* power of unarmed non-violence  
is any day  
far superior  
to  
that of  
armed force

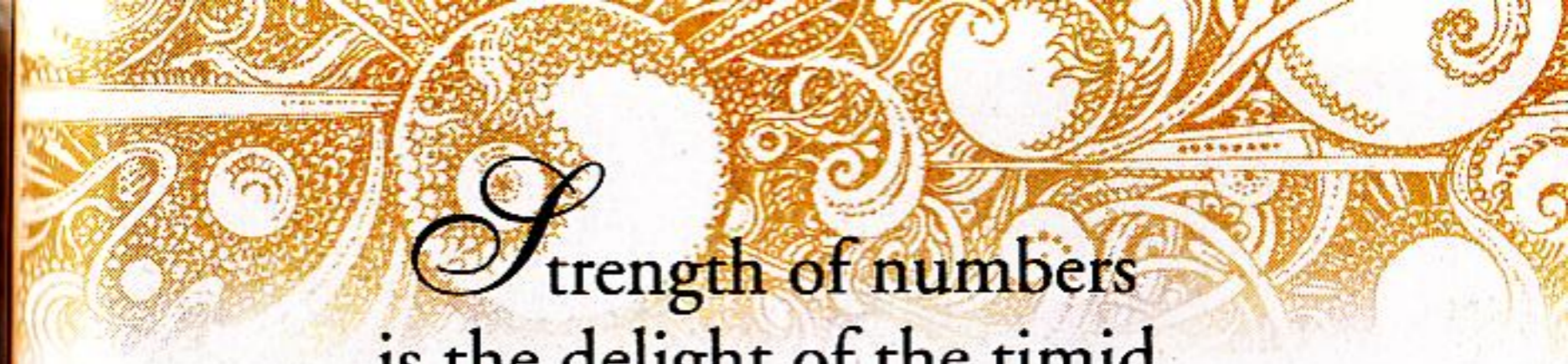
*The* strength to kill  
is not essential to  
self-defence  
One ought to have the strength to die



*As* long as you derive  
inner help  
and  
comfort  
from anything  
keep it



*T*he weak can never forgive  
Forgiveness  
is the attribute of  
the strong



*S*trength of numbers  
is the delight of the timid  
The valiant in spirit  
glory in fighting alone



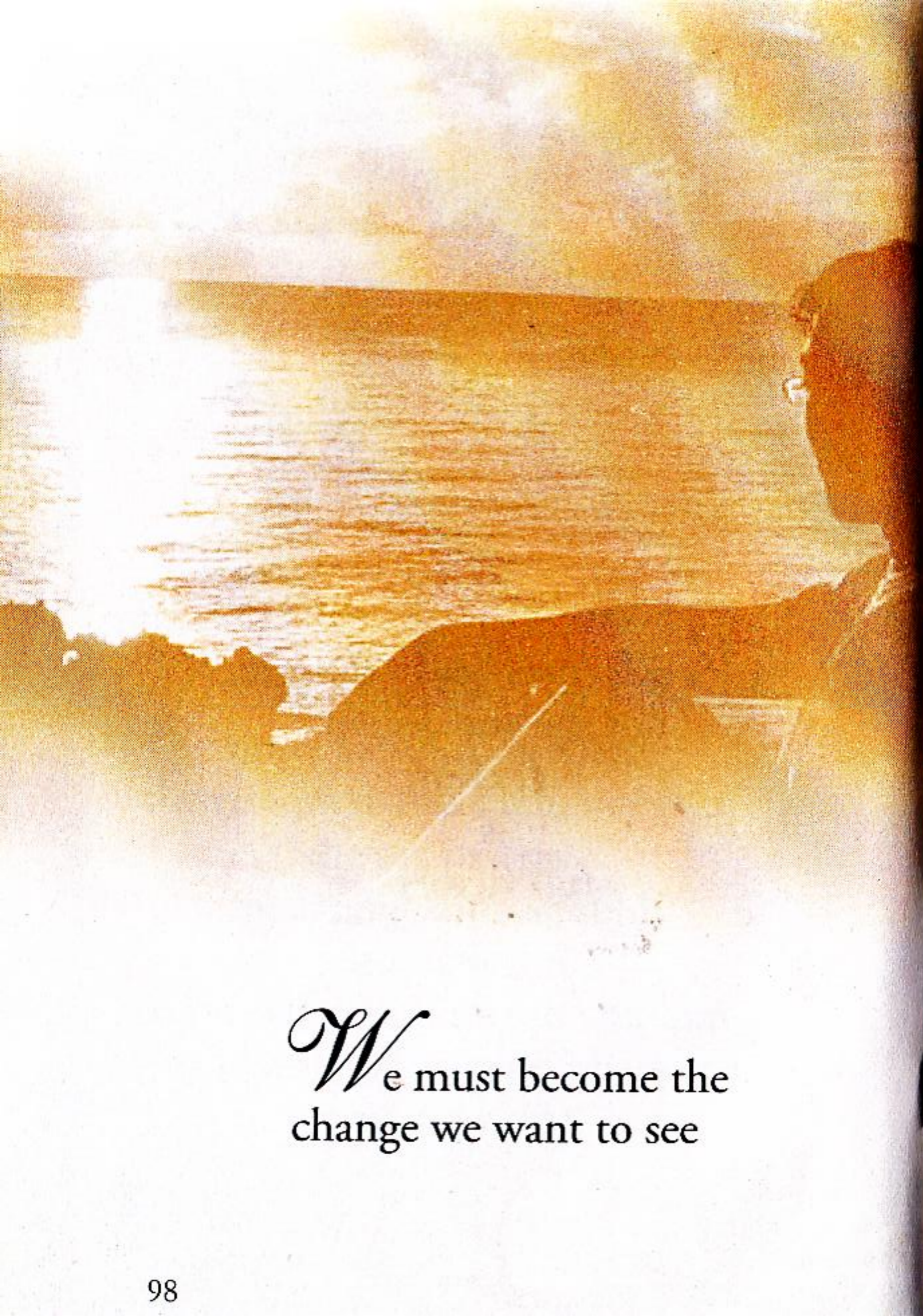


*T*he sex education that I stand for  
must have for its object  
the conquest and sublimation of  
the sex passion  
Such education should  
automatically  
serve to bring home to children  
the essential distinction between  
man and brute



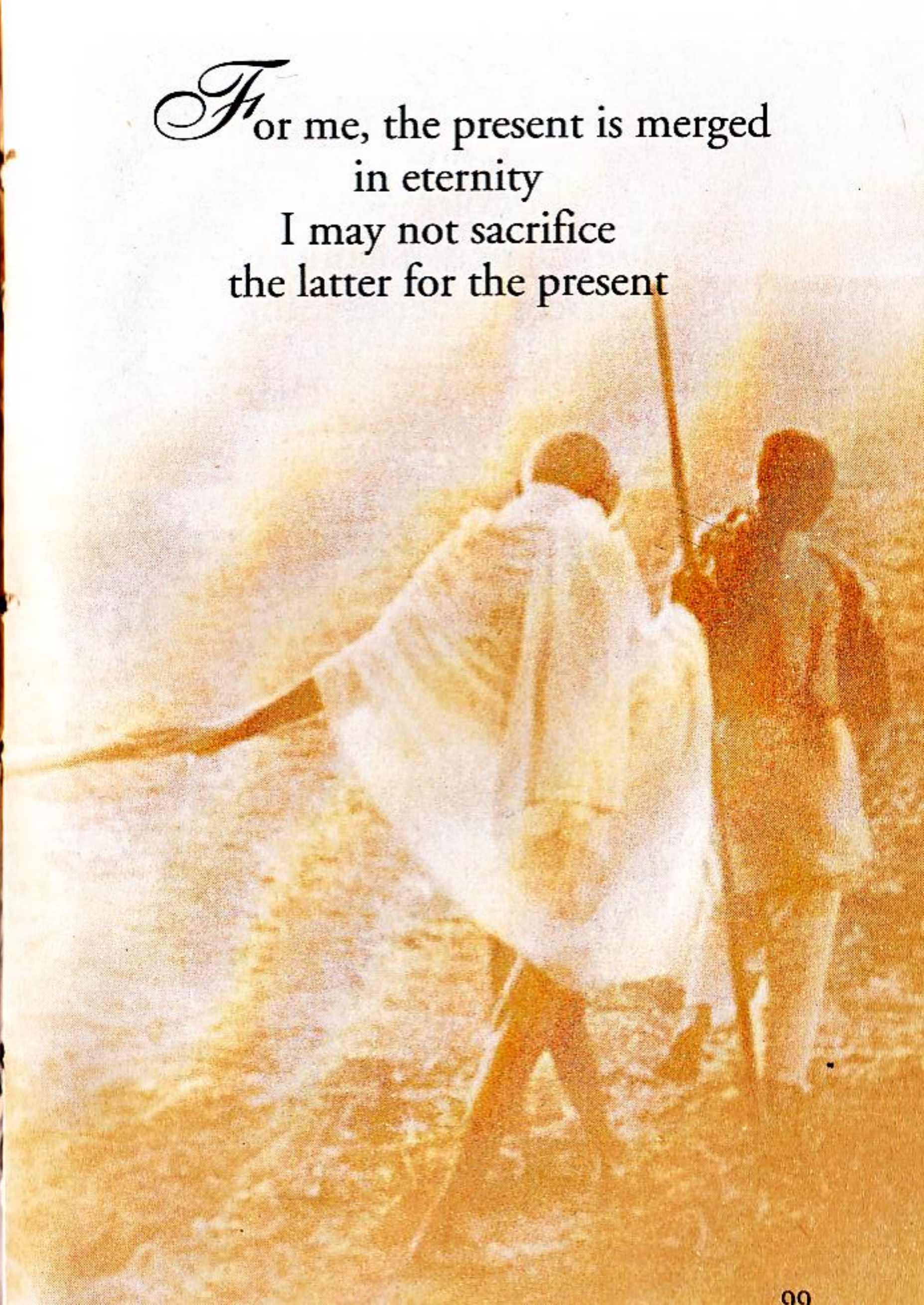
*S*atisfaction lies in the effort  
not the attainment  
Full effort  
is  
full victory





*We* must become the  
change we want to see


*F*or me, the present is merged  
in eternity  
I may not sacrifice  
the latter for the present



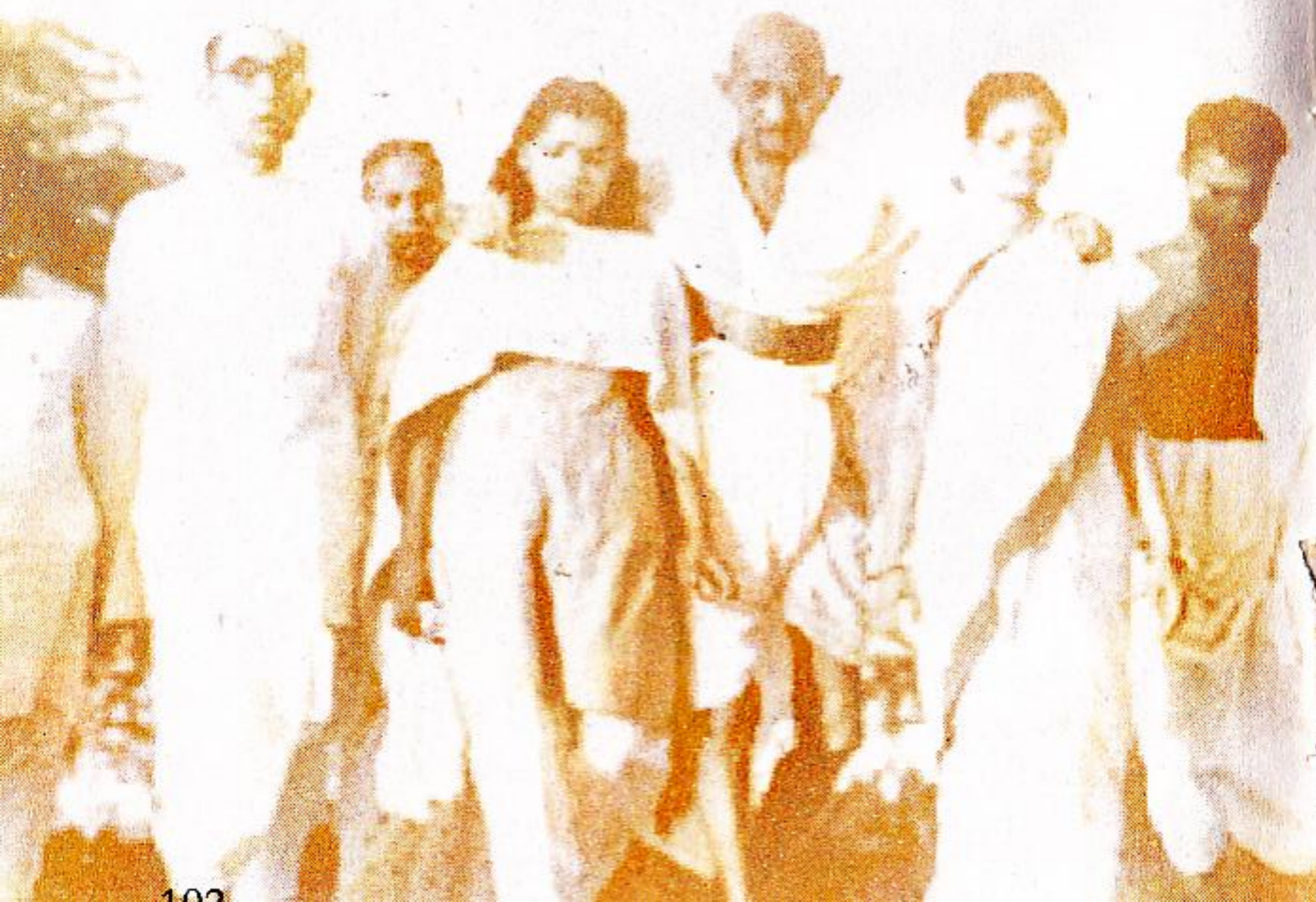
Anger  
and  
intolerance  
are the twin enemies of  
correct understanding



Strength  
does not come  
from  
physical capacity  
It comes  
from  
an indomitable will




*A* 'No'  
uttered from the deepest conviction  
is better than  
a 'Yes'  
merely uttered to please  
or worse  
to avoid trouble



*A* religion that takes no account  
of practical affairs  
and  
does not help to solve them  
is  
no religion





As human beings  
our greatness lies not so much  
in being able to remake the world  
as in being able to  
remake ourselves

